

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, March 12, 2015

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OUT OF TUNE

Shaky start for Walsall-based TV channel



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OUTPLAYED

Struggling Saddlers' woes continue



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Home for new-look market is in sight

PLANS to give the historic Walsall Market a £1.75 million revamp are forging ahead after councillors gave the nod to give it a permanent home.

The 800-year-old market situated across The Bridge, Park Street, Bradford Street, Lower Hall Lane and Digbeth was subject to temporary planning permission which was due to end next month. But Walsall Council's planning committee has now approved a permanent home for the market, which will be based around The Bridge.

The new-look market would be downsized to 70 stalls and it will operate up to seven days a week.

A food zone would be created and the stalls will also be demountable so when the market is not operating it can act as a public open space.

Planning committee chairman, Councillor Fred Westley said: "It's a step forward for the centre of the town. Not everyone is in favour but, given the present circumstances and the investment taking place in the town, the vast majority of the people in Walsall will welcome retaining it in some form."

As part of the plans, the Sister Dora statue will need to be slightly repositioned.

Block path calls made

CALLS have been made for a footpath to be closed off amid concerns over crime. There are concerns over the alleyway between Kewstoke Road and Moxhull Close, New Invention.

Willenhall Lib Dems are now asking Walsall Council to close the route which they believe is an escape route for petty criminals.

Councillor Ian Shires said: "The health and well being of those living in constant fear of petty crime has to be the council's first priority."

PREGNANT TEEN FIGURES IN FALL

FIGURES that show a fall in teenage pregnancies in Walsall have been welcomed, but the borough still has the highest number of teenagers giving birth in the Black Country.

The latest data shows a fall in the number of conceptions among under 18s from 46.9 per 1,000 in 2012 to 36.8 per 1,000 in 2013.

Councillor Rose Martin, who serves on the council's teen pregnancy strategic advisory committee has backed funding being secured for a team to tackle the issue.

Councillor Martin said: "Walsall is moving in the right direction."

"This equates to an overall reduction of 45.2 per cent since 1998."

"I have for the last 10 years taken a very keen interest in reducing teen pregnancies across Walsall."

Informed

"It's all about raising awareness and expectations."

"The team tries to say to the young ladies that there is more to life than being a mother at 16 or 18."

"It's all right to have a career and be a mother, but you don't have to be a mom at such a young age."

"It's also about giving our children an informed choice for their future."

by Deborah Hardiman

"As the teen pregnancy champion I am delighted with these results, and I thank the team for all their hard work, well done."

She explained that council officers and committee members go into schools in hotspot wards to give talks to pupils about the issue.

Blakenall and parts of Willenhall are among the areas where high pregnancy rates are a serious issue.

Councillor Martin said that she had been told that the service will not be subject to a £30,000 budget cut and that the cost will be met by Public Health England.

Figures showed a rating of 2.5 per cent of deliveries where the mother was aged less than 18 years for 2012 to 2013.

Meanwhile, the national average has been cited as 1.2 per cent.

Town talent on show

YOUNG people with a gift for performance are being urged to sign up this year's Willenhall's Got Talent show.

The competition is open to residents aged 11 to 19 or up to 25 for those with disabilities. It will be on March 20 at Gilberts Bar in the town centre from 7pm.

There is free entry for contestants, spectators will be charged £3 and £1 for children up to 18.

Application forms are available from the venue, in Field Street, Willenhall, or by telephoning 01902 605289, or via emailing coughland@walsall.gov.uk

Sikh festival hailed a huge success



Jaspinder Singh from Great Barr during the Hoola Mohalla celebrations at Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Willenhall

HUNDREDS of people joined in with the celebrations to mark a Sikh festival at a temple in the Black Country.

It was the first Hoola Mahalla to ever be held at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Willenhall and the organisers said it had been such a huge success that it will become an annual event in future.

Attractions included archery, bouncy castles, horses, a bird man with the likes of falcons and eagles and free food.

Hoola Mahalla begins on the first day of the lunar month of Chet in the Nanakshahi calendar.

One of the organisers, Simran

Singh, said: "The festival dates back to the 1700s. This is the first time we've ever held this event at Guru Nanak Gurdwara."

"We had a few hundred people come along to celebrate throughout the day. There was something for the kids and something for the adults."

The weekend celebration attracted people from around Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham with up to 400 guests coming along.

Mr Singh continued: "Everyone here helping to run the event has given their time up for free."

"The younger members of the man-

agement committee helped to organise it. We're hoping it will become an annual event in future."

A range of vegetarian foods were available during the event while there was also an ice cream van.

During Hoola Mohalla, which stands for 'mock fight', processions are organised, accompanied by war-drums and standard-bearers.

On April 5, the Sikh community in Willenhall will be celebrating Vaisakhi with a procession from Wednesfield to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara. Thousands of people usually take part and they will be setting off from 10am.

History centre's hours cut criticised

THE decision to cut hours at a Black Country history centre will be detrimental, a councillor has warned.

Walsall Local History Centre in Essex Street will open up to five fewer hours a day under council cuts to save £70,000.

Two of the nine staff who work at the centre which runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are leaving through voluntary redundancy.

Ward councillor and mayor Pete Smith said it was a well-established and well-used facility and condemned the move.

He said: "It is detrimental and it is bad news they are cutting down the hours."

"They are chipping away at everything."

"I just hope cutting back the staff isn't a nail in the coffin."

The changes will come into force from April 7 and will mean there will no longer be staffing in the reception area.

A message posted on the Walsall Local History Centre facebook page from centre manager Ruth Vyse said: "We would appreciate your continued support of our service which is very much valued and your continuing input to how our services could be improved."

28,000 fans heading off

AROUND 28,000 tickets have now been sold by Walsall for the club's first trip to Wembley later this month.

Walsall will go up against Bristol City in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final on March 22.

The club has revealed that only a couple of hundred tickets remain for the match, but they are hoping to get more.

Walsall FC club secretary Dan Mole said: "There are only a limited number of tickets left. We should be done with them in the next 48 hours."

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Tributes for ex-football boss Cliff, 68



Cliff Painter

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former manager of Rushall Olympic and Chasetown Football Club who died aged 68.
 Cliff Painter, known as 'Bodger', first became associated with Rushall Olympic for the start of the 1984-85 campaign when he took up the reins of manager at Dales Lane following a successful spell with rivals Armitage.

He left the club a year later but made a popular return to Dales Lane for the 1988-89 season as he linked up with new manager Bill Challenor as his assistant, finishing 5th position in the West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division.
 The Pics posted on their website: "With a tremendous knowledge of the non-league

football scene he will always be fondly remembered at Rushall Olympic and will be greatly missed. Rest in peace Cliff."
 Mr Painter eventually left at the end of season 1991-92 following a successful period for the club.
 He then went on to become part of Benny Brown's management team at rivals Chasetown during the mid 1990s.

Mr Painter took control of first team affairs for the end of the 1995-96 season and the whole of the subsequent 1996-97 campaign. He managed the club for a total of 81 games.
 A statement on the Chasetown website said: "He always remained a popular manager at the club and even to this day would ask supporters how the team were doing."

Winnick hits out at moves on fox-hunts

MOVES to change the ban on fox hunting with dogs is being opposed by veteran Walsall MP David Winnick, who says that the practice is not part of what would be considered a 'civilised society'.

Conservatives will offer MPs a vote on repealing the ban if they win the general election on May 7, David Cameron has promised.

Mr Cameron said he would call a free vote on a government bill passed by the former Labour administration in 2004, which banned the use of dogs to hunt foxes and other wild mammals in England and Wales.

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "I am strongly opposed to the ban on fox hunting being changed. The Prime Minister has said that a Tory government will try to overturn the ban.

"All the evidence indicates that the large majority support the ban, and I am glad this is so.

"It would, in my view, be totally wrong to restore a barbaric form of sporting.

"Fox control is certainly necessary in many places, but being chased and torn to pieces by hounds is not the way to go about the matter in a civilised society."

Rail landslip work to finish

A RAIL line is to reopen three weeks earlier than planned – easing travel chaos for Saddlers supporters heading to Wembley.

Work on a landslip on the Birmingham Moor Street to London Marylebone line is to be completed by the end of next week.

Fans heading for the final against Bristol City on March 22, had faced delays of at least 45 minutes due to buses replacing trains near the problem area at Leamington Spa.

Staff have been working for 24 hours a day on the repairs since January.

Ale ready for day

THE Walsall branch of the Campaign for Real Ale holds its annual real ale and cider festival from April 9 to 11in Walsall Town Hall, Lichfield Street with 100 beers available. The event will be open from 4-10pm on the opening day and 12 noon to 11pm on the Friday and Saturday.

Setback on pal's kidney offer after cysts found

A MAN'S bid to save his best friend's life by donating a kidney has suffered a setback after a scan revealed that he has cysts on his own kidney which may need treatment.

Stuart Bentley was expected to be signed off by doctors to undergo the life-saving donor operation. But two cysts have been found on his kidney and liver, which have stopped doctors carrying out the transplant.

Nearly fifth lose out over school choice

ONE in five children in Walsall failed to secure a place at their first choice secondary school for September, it has been revealed.

A total of 77 per cent of pupils got their top choice while 93 per cent got a place at a school listed in their top three choices.

Walsall's children's services and education boss, Councillor Barbara Cassidy said: "This year we were able to give 77 per cent of families their first secondary school preference and overall 93 per cent were offered one of their top three preferences.

"This is an important process for all families and we make every effort to take account of the preferences that parents express.

"It's slightly lower than in previous years, however this is in line with the trend across the West Midlands."

Meanwhile in Wolverhampton, four in five pupils got their first choice secondary school placement for September and 94 per cent got a place at one of their other choices.

Elsewhere in the Black Country, 82 per cent of Dudley youngsters got their first preference, although the lowest is in Sandwell, with just 74 per cent.

Now Nathan Black, of Brownhills, must wait for the outcome of more tests to see whether his friend needs to be treated.

The two pals hope that the operation can still go ahead, but it could be held back by months. Father-of-three Nathan, aged 45, has already had his hopes dashed when his body rejected the kidney that his mother Adrienne donated.

But Stuart, 46, who has been friends with Nathan for 12 years, offered to donate one of his own kidneys.

After tests revealed that he was both a tissue and blood match, doctors were ready to go ahead. However, final tests revealed cysts on Stuart's kidney and liver.

They could be harmless and often develop in middle age – but they need to be checked out by specialists.

Nathan said: "We need to wait for the results of another test to see whether Stuart needs treatment. We were really close to going ahead with the operation and prior to this he had got the green light," he said.

"They need to make sure that they don't take out a kidney that there could be problems with later," he said. In 2005, Nathan's kidneys began to fail after he picked up a disease that went undiagnosed.

He received the transplant from his 70-year-old mother last February.

But just two weeks before he was due to be given the final all-clear, he started suffering complications.

Canines call for donating blood



Owner Mrs Watts, left, with canine blood donor Huxley and vets nurse Amy Duncaif

THE 387 Veterinary Centre in Great Wyrley is hosting a canine blood collection session on Saturday – and wants to hear from owners of potential new recruits.

The sessions are run by Pet Blood Bank UK, a charity that provides all canine blood bank available to veterinary professionals.

"We've been supporting Pet Blood Bank UK since 2012," said 387 Vets Senior Partner Hamish Duncan. "It's a charity which is particularly close to my heart as without a blood transfusion my own springer span-

iel would have died of immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia – a life-threatening condition where the body's immune system destroys red blood cells and blood cannot transport oxygen around the body."

In October, 387 Vets won the first ever Heart of Pet Blood Bank Host Venue Award. Mrs Watts, a client at the centre, took one-year-old Newfoundland Huxley to his first blood donation session. "I was so proud," she said. For details, call 01922 411755 or visit www.petbloodbankuk.org

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Borough near top for costly utilities

FAMILIES in the West Midlands will overspend on their energy bills by £354 million this year.

According to new research, £3.4 billion is being unnecessarily spent on energy across the UK due to variable tariffs.

Unsurprisingly, London tops a list of 100 cities and major towns with the biggest overspenders. But it's Dudley that comes in 13th place with £21.8m, followed by Walsall in 19th place with £20m, Wolverhampton in 22nd with £18.5m and Stafford in 65th with £9.6m.

In total, 70 per cent of the Big Six energy company customers are overpaying by an average of £235 per year in the UK when compared to the cheapest fixed tariffs on the market.

Independent energy company First Utility said the research it commissioned showed that 80 per cent of bill payers would find it useful to have more information about cheaper tariffs from their existing supplier and those from others in the market.

A similar percentage also said that more transparent bills and more information about the best tariffs available would increase their level of trust in energy companies.

Storytelling young invite

CHILDREN with a love of storytelling can make their own decorated doodle book during a craft workshop.

Youngsters will be shown a simple book binding technique to make the paper pad before filling the book with words and colourful drawings.

Aimed at seven to 11-year-olds the session at Aldridge Library this Saturday runs from 10.30am to 11.30am. Places must be booked in advance on 01922 655569.

The session is one of several activities organised as part of the Chatterbook reading group.

Relatives hope

A HOSPITAL trust in the Black Country is seeking to trace relatives of a patient. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust wants to find relatives of John Birch of Walsall who was born in 1945. They can contact Julie Venables at Walsall Manor Hospital on 01922 656207

Fears over patriots group's EDL march plan



Scenes from the EDL march three years

A GROUP that has supported the English Defence League is planning a march through Bloxwich, sparking fears of a repeat of the violent scenes at a protest in the borough three years ago.

Members of the Walsall Patriots want to hold a memorial walk in Bloxwich to mark the second anniversary of the murder of soldier Lee Rigby by Islamic extremists.

The group claims on social network Facebook it has invited more than 5,000 supporters of the EDL to the event on May 23.

Fears have been raised by local councillors and MP David Winnick that the walk

could lead to violence. Councillor Shaun Fitzpatrick, of Bloxwich East, said: "Despite the pleas by Lee Rigby's family and by the Ministry of Defence for extremists not to exploit his death for political purposes, this group seems intent on doing just that and by doing so they dishonour his memory."

"The last time the EDL came to Walsall we saw police officers being injured, business premises attacked and 30 EDL supporters being sentenced to over 60 years for their violent offences. We don't want to see a repeat of that in Bloxwich."

West Midlands Police confirmed that it

has been made aware of a 'possible event being planned for May 23'. It added that officers had held talks with the organisers and given advice about making a formal application to the council for such an event.

An EDL protest in Walsall town centre in September 2012 resulted in ugly scenes as the violence which forced businesses to close and bus and taxis services to be suspended.

More than 500 EDL supporters descended on Leicester Street with hundreds of people also joining a counter protest by the Unite Against Fascism group on the same day.

Shopping centre second phase revamp approved

THE Old Square Shopping Centre will get a new glass entrance and five brand new stores in the latest phase of its multi-million pound overhaul.

The second part of the centre's regeneration scheme has been given the go-ahead by Walsall Council. As part of the work, seven units will be extended and redesigned.

Library to make room for police

AN empty room at a library in Walsall is being converted into a mini base for the police in a bid to keep more bobbies on the beat.

Unused space at New Invention Library will be turned into a rest room and canteen for local police officers.

The move is being spearheaded by Walsall Council, with bosses saying they want to keep bobbies on the beat in light of budget cuts.

They say the space will allow officers to stay close to their patrol areas instead of travelling back to Darlaston Police Station, improving response times and strengthening police presence in the area.

Walsall Council leader Sean Coughlan said: "Due to government cuts, Willenhall Police station is set to close, leading to fears the police presence will decline."

"According to the West Midlands' Police Federation, we have lost over 17 per cent of beat officers, so it is understandably local people are concerned their local bobby will not be there to protect the community."

Five large stores will be created facing the old market hall in High Street. Among the units earmarked for extension is the NHS Walk-in Centre, which is set to be relocated to the Saddlers Centre later this year.

The entrance to the Old Square and its service yard will also be spruced up and modernised.

Walsall's regeneration boss and deputy council leader, Councillor Mohammad Nazir said: "I hope it will go ahead without delay. That side of town will be given a complete facelift. It will be fit for the 21st century."

Old Square owner Threadneedle is spending £21 million on the project. The first phase includes the construction of a new Primark and Co-op supermarket.

The on-going regeneration of Walsall town centre also includes plans for St Matthews Quarter, which has seen B&M and Poundland sign up.

Multi-million pound cinema and leisure developments are also underway at Walsall Waterfront and next to Tesco Extra in the town centre.

It emerged last month that Walsall had been highlighted as being among the top 10 towns in the country for the number of empty stores.

Judge Jemma to help find town talent



From left, organiser Luke Forbes, singer Amie Faulkner, sponsor Danielle Moxham and judge Jemma Bird

A FORMER contestant on BBC's The Apprentice will be helping to judge a talent contest in Aldridge next month and people are being urged to audition. Aldridge Does Variety 2015 will be held at Aldridge Youth Theatre, in Noddy Park Road, on April 25 and auditions will take place at the venue on April 11 and 12.

Former Apprentice contestant Jemma Bird, of Aldridge, who runs her own performing arts coaching company called Amplify, will be on

the judging panel for this year's show. Organiser Luke Forbes, who is studying media and communications at Birmingham City University, said it was great to have her on board.

The 20-year-old, of Nevison Grove, Great Barr, said: "Because of being a dancer she's able to better critique dance performances. We've had around eight applications so far."

Miss Bird, aged 27, said: "The arts are kind of my thing. I started dancing at three-years-old. I can't wait to see

the talent. I'm a real champion of people getting up there and having a go."

The competition is open to anyone aged between 12 and 21. Last year's winner was singer Amie Faulkner, aged 21, of Great Barr, who sang a cover version of Pink's Dear Mr President. The first prize is £100 worth of Amazon vouchers.

For an application form, visit www.alldrivedoesvariety.co.uk or email alldrivedoesvariety@hotmail.com. The application deadline is March 31.

Wards back open after bug alert

WARDS have reopened at Walsall Manor Hospital following an outbreak of the winter vomiting bug norovirus. Heath bosses had to close ward 12 and the swift discharge unit to patient admissions, transfers and visitors.

The action was taken to stop the illness spreading but affected areas have now been able to open again. The virus lasts around two days and the only treatment required is plenty of fluid to maintain hydrated.

Even after the symptoms have cleared up people may still carry the virus.

Mikado on way thanks to troupe

GILBERT and Sullivan performance troupe Birmingham Savoyards are staging The Mikado towards the end of March.

The Savoyards take to the stage of the Old Rep at Station Street on Tuesday March 24, to Saturday 28.

Shows start at 7.30pm and tickets are available from Mrs A Barnbrook on 0121 242 2791, or the Old Rep box office, 0121 359 9444. Book online at www.oldertheatre.org.uk, or email tickets@birmingham-savoyards.org.uk

Sailing ahead for achievements

MORE than 70 young people were awarded certificates to mark their sailing achievements.

Four special needs groups were recognised at Walsall Council's sport and leisure outdoor pursuit team sailability awards.

Sessions take place at the base in Sneyd Water Activities Centre and Aldridge Sailing Club. For more details contact moorejef@walsall.gov.uk

Ramblers head to Blakedown

THE Walsall group of the ramblers will be heading to Blakedown, near Kidderminster for a walk on Sunday.

The walk, which will be about nine miles, is on part of the North Worcestershire Way and the Monarch's Way.

For details, call 01922 642597 or visit www.walsallramblers.co.uk

Pupils to see red

PELSALL school Ryders Hayes' pupils will be wearing red, styling teachers' hair and dancing for Red Nose Day tomorrow. There will be a 'wear a funny red accessory' initiative and a 15-minute danceathon.

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NHS place-names. A friend just back from hospital describes the daily delight of being wheeled between the Catheter Suite and the Discharge Lounge.

IN darker vein, the government's Animal & Plant Agency is advertising a couple of jobs, one for a disease-containment manager, the other for a lab technician. A sharp-eyed reader spotted the adverts in a trade journal under the cheerful heading: "Post Mortem Opportunities – Weybridge."

DID you catch the spokesman for Kew Gardens on the radio saying the only way to overcome its cash problems was to "grow our income"? Plant some for me.

BEFORE long, according to estimates this week, Britain will spend more on overseas aid than on its own defence. There is a name for policies like this. Madness.

MOST cheering sight of the week was the CCTV footage of the thief in Drogheda, Ireland, who tried to smash the window of a Mercedes with a brick. It bounced back, hit him in the face and knocked him out until the cops arrived. Perfect.

WHILE every Ukip candidate and councillor has been relentlessly examined for signs of racism, anti-semitism or bigotry, the Green Party's candidates seem to have escaped scrutiny. This is probably because the default media mindset is Ukip=bad, Green=good. But the painfully embarrassing "brain fade" interview by Green leader Natalie Bennett surely raises questions. It is fair to assume that the mumbling, stumbling, lost-for-facts Ms Bennett, being leader of the organisation, is one of the best candidates the Green Party can produce. So what are the worst like?



HOW times change. In 2015, Ukip leader Nigel Farage's definition of "normal" immigration is about 50,000 arrivals a year. In 1968, Enoch Powell's definition of madness leading to "Rivers of Blood" was – about 50,000 arrivals a year.

A STUNNING photograph appeared this week of a weasel carried on the back of a woodpecker. The weasel was looking for a kill, the bird was desperate to get free and amateur photographer Martin Le-May was in Hornchurch Country Park to capture the split-second action. Both animals escaped unhurt. A million little dramas like this happen every minute and virtually all go unrecorded. Take the punch-up I witnessed this week between a pheasant and a grey squirrel, fighting over a pile of birdseed on our garden wall. I would have put money on the squirrel, which can inflict a nasty bite. But the cock pheasant kept nimbly out of snapping range, delivered a mighty kick and punted that squirrel clean off the wall. As any photographer knows, if you'd been waiting with your camera ready, that fight would never have happened.

BENEFITS Britain (C5) is the perfect programme to answer all sorts of questions about the welfare state. Why does one single mother with a baby get £56 a week but a disabled older woman gets £1,100 a month? Why does the unemployed man who gets £40 for a day's work then have his benefits cut by £100? How does the £56-a-week single mum afford her smartphone? How can a self-professed "singer/songwriter" get benefits for 20 years? But the series is not in the information business. It simply finds sad cases and films them at their worst for public entertainment. Like so many of these "reality" shows, it's really a peep show. Two hundred years ago tourists would pay to laugh at the lunatics in Bedlam asylum. These days we have Benefits Britain, and don't you come away from it feeling grubby?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Growing school in hall and rooms bid

A SCHOOL in Walsall has lodged plans to build a new multi-purpose hall and changing rooms after almost doubling the amount of pupils it takes in the past 60 years.

The plans, which have been submitted to Walsall Council, are for Mayfield Preparatory School.

The current school hall was built in the 1950s and has been described as 'not fit for purpose'. The school,

in Sutton Road, had around 120 pupils when the hall was built but there are now more than 200 students.

According to the plans, the new hall would have a sprung wooden floor and be used for indoor sports, music concerts, drama productions, parent workshops and prize-giving events. It would include tiered, retractable seating and there would

be separate changing facilities for boys, girls, male and female staff.

A report states: "The school has outgrown the existing hall built in the 1950s. Mayfield Preparatory School needs a new school hall, a facility to cater for the activities which take place in this thriving centre of education. We need to provide a modern multi-purpose hall which is fit for our pupils, staff and

parents in the 21st century." The report says that due to health and safety considerations, only half a class is able to do gymnastics in the hall at one time and pupils have to change in classrooms for PE due to the lack of facilities.

It added: "As the hall is also used for drama and music, sometimes ballet classes have to take place in the art and technology room."

Major works at J10 will take two years

THE transformation of the M6 junction 10 island will take two years to complete – and won't get started until at least 2017.

The roundabout is being revamped under £60 million plans to tackle years of congestion problems in and out of Walsall. Lanes going over the motorway will be increased from two to four under plans to rebuild the bridges and improve traffic flow.

The ambitious project also involves widening the M6 slip roads and improving the Wolverhampton Road and Bloxwich Lane junction.

There will also be some modification work to the Black Country Route as in a bid to improve traffic flow.

Walsall Council and the Highways Agency are leading on the ambitious scheme which has received Government funding. Work is anticipated to start within the 2017/18 financial year, and expected to take two years to finish, with highways bosses vowing to try and minimise disruption.

Traffic regularly builds up along Wolverhampton Road and the Black Country Route which lead up to the M6, causing long delays during peak travel periods.

Around 160,000 motorists a day use the busy stretch of the motorway and it is hoped the project will improve traffic in the area.

Transport chief, councillor Lee Jeavons said: "This is known as one of the busiest junctions in the entire country, with thousands of

by Craig Hughes

vehicles passing through junction 10 during the busiest hours of the day.

"This is going to be a big scheme and we have several years to plan for the works, so there is nothing immediate for people to worry about. We believe that it will make a major contribution to relieve congestion on the motorway and surrounding areas. If we don't address the congestion now, it will only get worse."

A report has been produced from Matt Crowton, transportation strategy and policy manager, for the council's business, employment and local economy scrutiny panel.

He said: "Traffic management arrangements have not yet been finalised until much closer to construction, but both Walsall Council and the Highways Agency will work together closely to minimise disruption to Walsall residents, businesses and visitors during the construction period."

Car park set for return

FORMER council car park land in Walsall town centre will be brought back into use after plans were given the go-ahead. The site at the junction of Town Hill and Upper Rushall Street is to become a private car park.

Lyndon House Hotel put forward the application to take on the land and create eight spaces for visitors and staff. Following road improvements near St Matthews Church and Upper Rushall Street, some of the council car park was left vacant. It comes after a review of parking with the council recently agreeing that spaces off Dudley Street could be taken over privately.

Chloe's a big hit in Japan



Chloe Machin, aged 16, from Beechdale, with Yale managing director Nigel Fisher

BLACK BELT Chloe Machin started Karate as a way to deal with bullying, and only four years later she's on her way to Japan to compete in the world championships.

The 16-year-old from Walsall has increased the level of her training to prepare her for the competition, working on both pre-prepared Kata karate and free-form Kumite. As well as increasing the training she's been doing at her home club, Bilston's Mushindo Wado-Kai, Chloe has been travelling to practise with the national squad.

She said that it was difficult, but that she was enjoying the training.

Chloe added: "In some ways, I thank the bullies as they have helped to give me the strength to reach my goals."

To help her get to Japan, Chloe is being sponsored by security firm Yale and heating company Laker Home Care. Nigel Fisher, managing director of Yale said: "We are very proud to sponsor Chloe Machin, a fantastic young athlete! She epitomises what hard work and dedication can achieve."

Delighted Kelly gets her medal returned

A GOLD medal stolen during a burglary at the home of former heptathlete Kelly Sotherton has been recovered from a postbox.

The medal, won by Sotherton at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, was dumped in the pillar box within 24 hours of a media appeal on BBC1's Crimewatch. The medal was among several personal items stolen from the retired athlete's home overnight between February 17 and 18 as she slept upstairs.

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said a postal worker found the gold medal while emptying a postbox at the junction of Springfield Road and Fowler Road in Sutton Coldfield.

In a posting on her Twitter account, Sotherton, who retired in 2012, informed her 43,000 followers: "My medal was found in a postbox the morning after @BBCcrimewatch ... what a great result! #found."

Other items, including further medals, have yet to be traced and detectives are still appealing for information. As well as following up several new lines of enquiry as a result of information passed to Crimewatch, officers are examining CCTV footage from the area.

Village raids spark patrols

BURGLARIES are on the increase in Pelsall, prompting police to step up patrols. There have been a dozen reported crimes from the start of January to the end of February. This compares to seven in the same period last year. Police officers are urging residents to keep doors and windows locked.

Burglaries have taken place in Rainswood Drive, Goscote Road, Walsall Road, Clarendon Place, Hall Lane and Leyland Croft; along with Windrush Close, Clockmill Road, Wolverhampton Road, Fordbrook Lane, Oakland Way and Norton Road.

New baristas

A COFFEE shop in Aldridge is taking on four new workers to cope with demand just weeks after opening.

Costa Coffee in Anchor Parade opened at the end of February and now bosses are looking to recruit extra baristas to join the team of eight already employed.

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Changes at campus will help the public

A NEW car park for almost 250 vehicles at Walsall's university will make the campus more accessible to the public, bosses have said.

Formal plans have been put forward for the University of Wolverhampton's site in the borough to replace a temporary overspill site. A new entrance is also being proposed off Broadway so cars will no longer have to drive through the housing estate off Magdalene Road.

The 248-space overflow car park would replace the current 235 temporary one.

Bosses at the university say more than £50 million has been invested in the site. It has been the home of the UK Olympic Judo squad and helped bring investment into the town.

They are seeking to further improve the campus, with proposals to enhance the public access and make create a new, more visible entrance.

Vice Chancellor, professor Geoff Layer said: "Universities are pivotal to the development of the local economy. As the University of opportunity we want to make sure that we are at the heart of our communities. We are therefore seeking to significantly enhance physical access to our campus, further raising its profile."

Civic pair to host event

A MAYOR and mayoress will host a coffee morning later this month. Councillor Pete Smith and mayoress Laura Barnes will be welcoming visitors to the mayor's parlour on March 23.

The event will run from 10.30pm until noon. There will be the chance to tour the venue. There will also be a performance by the choir from Lower Farm Primary School.

Tickets cost £3, including tea or coffee and cake. They are available from the mayor's office on 01922 652072 or from the Stan Ball Centre, on 01922 403351.

CCTV is installed

A CCTV camera has been installed in a Streetly road in a bid to reduce anti-social behaviour. It has been placed in Blackwood Road and will also be used to help identify troublemakers. Police from the Streetly neighbourhood police team have been carrying out patrols.

Owner hits out at driver after pet injured



Paul Jones with Buster

A DISABLED dog owner watched in horror as his beloved pet was hit by a car and dragged along the road in a hit and run. Paul Jones was walking rescue dog Toby, his springer spaniel, along Bentley Lane in Walsall on Saturday, February 28.

When he stepped onto the zebra crossing, just outside The Alma Inn, Mr Jones claims a car came speeding along, failed to stop and struck Toby.

The dog was then dragged along the road underneath as the vehicle sped off, also injuring Mr Jones who was holding his lead. He suffered bruising from incident.

Mr Jones recalled the dramatic moment his dog was hit by the car. "It was horrendous," he said. "I got

to the zebra crossing and was half-way out with Toby and my other dog Buster, when suddenly a car appeared from nowhere.

"It hit Toby head on and his lead was ripped from my hand.

"He went right under the car. I ran over and screamed at the driver to stop but he just told me to go away."

Mr Jones ran after the car and when Toby finally became unstuck he dragged him to safety. Locals came to Mr Jones's aid and by chance a vet was passing and stopped to help. Toby was taken to a PDSA hospital and miraculously survived, but suffered bruised lungs, a dislocated leg and hip.

Mr Jones, aged 61, who lives in

Bentley, said: "Who does that? I was in bits and the driver just took off. It could have been me lying on the ground if it was seconds later."

Mr Jones, who suffers from breathing problems and severe arthritis in his neck and shoulder, said he was grateful to the onlookers who came to his and Toby's aid, offering blankets and support.

He said the car that hit Toby was a silver Corsa and it was being driven by an Asian man with three male passengers. West Midlands Police spokeswoman Catherine Hickman confirmed officers were investigation a non-stop road traffic collision and that minor injuries to a man and a dog was the result.



Injured - spaniel Toby

Museum to close soon as part of council cuts

WALSALL Museum will shut its doors for the final time at the end of this month, with the loss of three jobs, it has been revealed.

Bosses say collections from the much-loved facility will be kept in storage until they can be redisplayed elsewhere. The closure on March 31, which was part of budget cuts that will see £29million slashed over the next 12 months, has been described as a 'huge

loss' to the town.

Shutting the facility, which opened in the 1960s, will help the council to save £70,000 a year.

It is housed in Walsall Library and displays social history, textile and metal-working collections. Blackenall Councillor Pete Smith said "It will be such a shame to see it close. I have consistently voted against these cuts. At this rate there will be nothing left in Walsall."

Sue Grainger, the council's head of libraries, heritage and arts, said: "Sadly, the decision to close the Walsall Museum was passed in the council's agreed budget for 2015-16."

Plans have already been tabled by the council to combine Walsall Leather Museum, the Local History Centre and Walsall Museum under one roof.

The council has made the heritage centre an investment priority for 2015-16 and is looking to raise £6.2m towards its construction from external bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Mrs Grainger added: "We are very hopeful of being able to deliver a single heritage centre for Walsall borough and working with the Heritage Lottery Fund, we are hoping to submit a stage one bid in June."

School celebrates success on SATs



Pupils Honey-Lee Bannister, Paris Miller, Nicholas Dee, and Bradley Brown

A PRIMARY school has been praised for its positive SATs results by Schools Minister David Laws.

Mr Laws wrote to Millfield Primary School in Brownhills to congratulate them on their results. He said: "Your results show that you have improved in terms of the progress and attainment achieved by your disadvantaged pupils since 2011 and that you are highly effective in educating your disadvantaged pupils. I would like to congratulate your staff, governors, parents and pupils for their hard work, and thank you for your leadership."

The school has used its pupil premium funding creatively to help students who need additional support. The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly-funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

Millfield has used the funding to help children gain learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom.

Children have had the opportunity to do a range of outdoor learning including canoe trips.

Headteacher Michelle Sheehy said: "We have tried to use our funding to help children broaden their experiences, expand their vocabulary and maximise quality time with teaching staff. We have diversified our approach to learning and supporting the children."

Pounding for store on claims

POUNDLAND must no longer claim that every item it sells costs £1 after a watchdog upheld complaints that it sold DVDs and other 'special' offers for more.

The poundland.co.uk website's About Us page said its 'Everything for £1' claim was 'the idea of our founders in 1990 and we're still true to that great vision today'.

But three complainants argued that Poundland was misleading customers because it promoted products that cost more than £1 and sold DVDs and CDs for £2.

The Willenhall-based discount giant said it priced all its ordinary products at £1, but had introduced 'special promotions'.

The cashier would offer customers the opportunity to buy the promotional item.

The ASA ruled: "We concluded that the ad was misleading."

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

STAND by your beds. At last, a bit of common sense from the governing classes.

First of all, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has told traffic wardens to give people 10 minutes leeway before hitting them with parking tickets. And now Dudley Council has announced it will remove two bus lanes from Halesowen.

Frankly, if it was up to me we would get rid of traffic wardens altogether.

Around 10 years ago Bridgnorth found itself without a traffic warden, and the town didn't collapse into anarchy.

A few people parked on the pavement, and the one-hour limit in the High Street was routinely ignored, but did it mark the end of civilisation? Hardly.

The money saved from getting rid of all the traffic wardens would pay for more police, who could deal with the small number of serious parking violations.

And while we're about it, let's get rid of all bus lanes. Look I have nothing against buses, in the past week I have used them twice. What I don't accept is that boarding a vehicle which happens to have two floors and a staircase somehow makes me more virtuous than other road users.

And let's be honest. By far the majority of people who use buses tend not to be in a hurry. During my two journeys last week, the passengers broadly fell into one of two categories: retired people doing their shopping, and teenagers on their way back from the local comprehensive.

The elderly folk didn't look to be in any sort of rush, I would say they probably enjoyed having time for a natter. And the rowdy schoolkids, who made up the majority of the passengers, were definitely in no hurry to get to their destination early. Less time to throw sweets at the podgy lad at the front.

And me? Well I had taken the day off work to take my car into the garage. So I wasn't in a hurry either.

However, the people in the surrounding cars and vans were in a hurry. People driving to and from work. Delivery drivers, white van men, truckers. The people whose work pays the taxes which subsidise the buses in the first place. And they were stuck in the traffic queues while the bus glided through its designated lane. Of course, the people responsible for the bus lanes don't see it like that. They doubtless take the view that by inconveniencing motorists, they make public transport more attractive. But do they really expect the washing machine repair man to start loading his tools onto the bus? How would they feel if the fishmonger started carting his wares up the stairs of the No. 77?

One of these days, the governing classes will realise motorists are not some sort of dissident group that needs to be curtailed, just ordinary people going about their business.



Veteran newsreader Bob Hall



David Hamilton talks pop nostalgia



Bostin' Bear leads the children's programming

TV station gets off to shaky start

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT tunes in to the problems faced by Big Station TV following its recent launch

DODGY sound, a row over Crossroads royalties and a launch show that was more corporate video than glitz and glamour.

The newest Freeview TV channel dedicated to the West Midlands has not exactly got off to the smoothest of starts.

Big Centre TV's idea of a big opening night consisted of interviews with some of its executives sitting in front of their computers and discussing a business plan before the station was blessed by a clergyman.

Veteran broadcaster Bob Hall's news bulletin on Saturday was filmed by a camera that seemed to have zoomed out as far as it would go until someone realised and hit the button in a panic.

And the sound was, at some stages, so poor it may as well have been recorded with a hairdryer by the microphone.

But some teething problems are inevitable, particularly given that it has only been three months since bosses were told they even had a licence.

And for all the glitches, there are currently a lot of young and keen people cutting their teeth in an increasingly competitive profession, making programmes in the West Midlands. It also promotes local musicians, giving them an audience and reach they would never had had otherwise.

Big Centre, which is based in Walsall's Goldmine Centre, is funded mostly by adverts.

It is not the mighty BBC. Nor is trying to be. It is a group of people finding their feet on the rather prominent position of Channel 8 on the Freeview network. Big



Crossroads is back but actor Paul Henry - Benny, has hit out at the royalties

Centre has acquired 3,000 episodes of the classic Midlands soap, Crossroads, and shows it three times a day.

Yet it is already facing controversy as some of the cast are not happy at getting royalties reportedly as low as £1.25 per episode.

Paul Henry, aged 68, who played Benny Hawkins, said he had not been involved in any negotiations, adding: "I don't want it to go out. I don't want anything shown with me in it."

Other cast members, such as Jane Rossington, who played Jill Richardson in the soap, are actively promoting its re-run on Big Centre.

Chris Perry, channel director, says: "It's nothing to do with us. It's a discussion that would need to be had with

ries as the BBC," he says. "We talk to their news editors in Birmingham every day to make sure we aren't duplicating content."

"We're doing 55 hours a week of new programming, from 7am to midnight. That's more ambitious than London Live, the equivalent local TV channel in the capital, when it launched."

That new programming includes The David Hamilton Show, presented by the man Ken Dodd dubbed Diddy.

The show I watched involved him talking about music, including Top of the Pops, when the biggest scandal was about artists miming rather than what one of its most infamous presenters was up to. Of course, the programme did not gloss over that either and there was an acknowledgement of how Jimmy Savile had wooed people and hidden behind his charm.

"He didn't have pals among the other DJs. Although we heard rumours, you couldn't act on them," said Diddy while talking to former TOTP host Pete Murray, aged 89.

Then there's Bostin' Bear, a programme for kids, and wrestling, bowls, darts and ice hockey for sports-lovers.

It's not fair to criticise Big Centre's production values without acknowledging that a lot of work has had to take place in a very short space of time.

Yes, some of the programmes such as Sunday night's The 8 Team look like they're presented by teenagers. But that's because they are.

And it's fantastic that a group of young people from Walsall Studio School are getting to develop their skills on a TV channel that sits right next to BBC Three, where many of their contemporaries might go for an evening's entertainment.

No-one else would be able to offer these young people such a prominent platform. And over time, if all goes well, they will grow in confidence and might really give the bigger boys of the Beeb a run for their considerable money.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

"I've unblocked the logjam," declared David Cameron in the living room of the house he was visiting. "Blimey," I thought. "That's multi-tasking."

That is, until I realised he was on about the leaders' debates rather than the downstairs loo. We were in a showhome in Cannock where lots of people have made use of the coalition's Help to Buy programme.

It could be argued that if the biggest political kicking the Prime Minister got this week was about whether he wants to spend more time saying 'long term economic plan' on the telly, as opposed to the immigration figures, he's not doing that badly.

But it still didn't look particularly good for him that he only wants to go up against Ed Miliband during prime time once before May 7 and he wants five other party leaders there to dice each other in the crossfire.

So Mr Cameron reckons he has 'unblocked the logjam' by agreeing to a debate that has to happen before Parliament is dissolved on March 30.

Wary It turns out that rather than debating Mr Miliband the Prime Minister would rather be spending time up here.

"Let's hold the debate before the campaign takes place because otherwise it takes all the life out of the campaign and I want to be in Cannock, in Stafford, in Cornwall, in Cumbria, in Norfolk, in Suffolk," he said

"Now is the time to hold a debate and I have, as it were, unblocked the logjam by saying let's have a seven-corner debate, let's have it before the campaign starts." That's right. 'Before' the campaign starts. That's the campaign that's basically been going on since last summer.

So if you weren't already weary of the pledges, the warnings, the scaremongering and the one-upmanship, you soon will be.

□□□□□

"Sometimes it seems that environmental challenges like global warming are so big we can't possibly do anything about them as individuals. Or we are so busy and stressed in our everyday lives that we don't have time to think about it, or to take action. But tackling environmental issues - from climate change to energy use, waste to transport - is important for our future and in our daily lives we can all be doing something to reduce the harmful impact of our actions on the environment."

So wrote Harriet Harman, deputy leader of the Labour party. This is the same politician who came to the Black Country this week and drove around in a fossil-fuelled pink campaign minibus. And it is the same politician who then got a train back to London while her minibus drove off somewhere else.

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Dining time on buses is not fare

EVERY time I board a bus in the Willenhall/Walsall area, I either see passengers dining or have dined or snacked on them. It's a total disgrace.

I can understand a lone driver of a bus, letting passengers on his vehicle, only for them to snack on a bar of chocolate, etc, and then discard the wrapper, bits and all, anywhere but on their person, upon the bus (the floor in other words). But allowing passengers to alight his bus eating greasy fish, pie or other and chips, burgers, etc, is not acceptable.

Churches must be celebrated

TWO Darlaston churches must be celebrated for their work in unifying local people, and playing a vital role in keeping people healthy, connected to their communities and for giving hope where it is most needed.

By providing foodbanks and meals for local people the churches, namely, St Lawrence and All Saints, Darlaston, are setting an example to us all.

Substantial numbers are needing help because of problems with the Social Security system, more people in work are coming to the sessions on 'low incomes' in desperation.

Many are living on a financial knife edge, any small changes in circumstance like a higher bill than expected can force families into crisis. There are many negative and cynical political attitudes and selfish vested interests sounding off across the media. The work of the two churches in Darlaston provides a better example of how we can all work together.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

These passengers not only throw the empty containers, and wrapping on the floor, but transfer the grease off their fingers onto the 'grab bars' of the bus, only for the following passengers to be contaminated with the grease of their finger food.

Not only is it finger food, it is drink cans, and bottles, rolling around our buses. What is wrong with society today? It seems the young people and mothers with small children cannot go five minutes without having to eat and drink something.

A PARKER, Willenhall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Noise of dogs drive people barking mad

WHY is it that some dog owners are always in the news, for all the wrong reasons? This time, it is all about dogs barking, during the early hours of the morning.

I would ask the question; why do dogs not get laryngitis? The answer of course is, because their owners do.

They spend days and weeks shouting at their dogs to stop barking, often just shouting their names (a complete giveaway whose dog is barking) creating just as much of a disturbance as their dogs barking. Of course then they get laryngitis or become deaf to their dogs barking, and so they continue barking, with much distress and anxiety, lying there after being awakened from these

barking dogs, for the next session of barking. It's like torture!

Neighbours have to get up early to go to work (funny how most of these dog barking owners do not work) and are tired before they start. Some neighbours resort to moving property to get away from barking dogs, others just grin and bear it, hoping their other neighbours will take action.

Either way it is not fair and indeed against the law, to allow your dogs to cause a nuisance to others. It is high time dog owners faced up to their responsibilities; after all they are the ones who want these animals. Remember, dogs are like children, they cry for a reason!

A PARKER
Willenhall

Arthur will be missed

ON Tuesday, February 17, family, friends and colleagues marked the passing of former councillor Arthur Bentley.

Along with the sadness, I hope they will his life, as I will.

As a member of New Invention Local Committee, I met Arthur Bentley on many occasions in his role as local councillor for Willenhall North.

I always found him to be a pleasant, considerate and well-informed person.

A good councillor and mayor, he will be sadly missed, but Willenhall is a better place thanks to the likes of Arthur Bentley.

My condolences go to the family.

COUNCILLOR
LIZ HAZELL
UKIP Group Leader
Walsall

Spock's now among stars

SO sad to hear the news of the one and only Mr Spock.

I was fortunate enough to meet Leonard Nimoy at a Star Trek convention in Milton Keynes. A signed photograph is all I expected but a great conversation followed with stories of how he and Shatner would wind each other up by playing jokes on each other.

Nimoy was a great director too, not only did he direct a few Star Trek films but he also directed films such as Three Men and a Baby proving that there was more to the man than Spock. A great talent, a great personality who will be missed.

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Tributes flood in after death of ex-boss Mackay

TRIBUTES have flooded in following the death of former Saddlers manager Dave Mackay, who has died at the age of 80.

Mackay, who managed the club from March 1977 to August 1978, also played for Tottenham, Hearts and Scotland during his successful career.

In a statement released by Walsall FC, the club said: "Former Walsall FC manager, Dave Mackay, has passed away at the age of 80. Our thoughts go out to his family at this sad time. RIP." Mackay was born in Edinburgh on November 14, 1934. He made more than 800 appearances at various levels despite breaking the same leg twice.

His spell at Walsall saw the Saddlers finish sixth in Division Three and reach the fifth round of the FA Cup in 1977/78. He stayed at the club's previous ground, Fellows Park, for 14 months, leaving in 1978 to coach in Kuwait. In April 1989 he came back to the West Midlands, taking charge of struggling Birmingham City but in January 1991 he lost his job at St Andrews, being replaced a month later by Lou Macari.

The 22-cap Scotland international, who was part of Spurs' 1961 double-winning team, passed away at hospital in Nottingham last Monday. Supporters have been leaving their own tributes to him on Walsall FC's Facebook page.

Neil Malin wrote: "Was the manager when I went to my first Walsall match 37 years ago versus Peterborough. I had the Dave Mackay red silk scarf with green tassels at the end. Happy memories RIP Dave."

Meanwhile, Barry Tricklebank wrote: "A legend as a player, brought some attacking players to Fellows Park during his time."

Les Bullock wrote: "Dave Mackay. One of the greats of British football, and of the history of Walsall FC."

Mackay was described by Tottenham Hotspur as one of their greatest players and a minute's silence was held before their Premier League clash with Swansea.



Dave Mackay with one of the scarves produced after he took over as boss

College's apprentice boost

A COLLEGE in the Black Country has won a national award for its apprenticeships.

Walsall College scooped bronze in the training provider of the year award at the Apprenticeships 4 England ceremony.

The college currently has more than 1,000 apprentices enrolled on its programmes.

James Norris, assistant principal for commercial development, said: "We are thrilled to have been presented with this award as our apprenticeship provision is something we are very

proud of. Last year our overall success rates were remarkably higher than the national average.

"This success is partly due to the fact that before students are even placed with employers, they go through an initial assessment process which ensures they are on the right programme at the right level for their needs.

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Community comes out fighting on plans



With the petition, front, from left, Councillor Mohammed Arif, Andy Morrison, Mohammed Rashid and Akhlaq Hussain

MORE than 1,500 people have signed a petition against a busy road being turned into a one-way system. Businesses and residents have raised concerns about proposals to alter Caldmore Road, as well as the lack of consultation.

Walsall Council is looking to allocate £180,000 funding towards work in Caldmore Road and Birmingham Road.

But there are concerns that if a one-way system went ahead between Vicarage Place and Caldmore Green it would cause further congestion and hit traders.

Trader Akhlaq Hussain said: "We recognise there is an issue with traffic flow on Caldmore Road due to the amount of buses that are using the route en route to West Bromwich. The majority of the small businesses are already fighting hard to survive in the current climate. We urge the highway cabinet member to sit down with us and discuss a way forward as one-way is not acceptable."

Councillor Mohammed Arif said: "Caldmore Village serves a diverse community. Implementation of a one-way will clog-up an already congested Corporation Street."

Children in drink alerts top 100 at the Manor

MORE than 100 children aged under 16 were taken to a hospital after drinking too much alcohol in just 10 months – up almost 300 per cent from the previous year.

A total of 104 youngsters under 16 were admitted to Walsall Manor Hospital for alcohol abuse from April last year to January.

For the 12 months previous to the period, the hospital had 36 under-16s go through its doors with drink-related issues.

The figures, obtained in a Freedom of Information Act, also showed 150 youngsters aged under 18 were admitted for alcohol abuse from April last year to January. This was up from 67 in the 12 months before the period. In total, 1,060 people were admitted to the hospital for alcohol abuse during the 10 months, up from 745 in 2013/14.

The increase in admissions could relate to the downgrading of County Hospital, which has its A&E department closed for overnight intake. The old Stafford Hospital is now run by the new University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. Councillor Pete

by Alex Ross

Smith, a member of Walsall's Health and Wellbeing board, said: "It really is worrying, with under 16s you are talking about people who are accessing alcohol either through retail outlets which shouldn't be selling to them or from home."

He added that it was adding further pressure to the Manor, which has already struggled with rising numbers of admissions. It means people with other issues are not being seen as quickly as they might be. It is difficult if someone is found in a state and needs to go to hospital even if they have had a drink.

"They may need medical attention. You can't just assume because people are intoxicated it is just that."



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Plans for recycling plant are refused

THE opening of a metal recycling plant in Brownhills would have been a 'step too far' and a nuisance to residents, councillors claimed.

The potential traffic and noise issues were cited as the planning committee threw out the proposals.

The planning committee at Pelsall Metallurgical Ltd wished to relocate from Birmingham to Apex Road, however, dozens of objections were made, despite officers recommending it for approval.

It would have seen approximately 50 lorries visit each day and more than 75,000 tons of metal passing through the site each year.

There would have been 20 staff based there, with 10 jobs created.

During a debate by the committee, Pelsall Councillor Garry Perry voiced his objections. He said: "This neighbours my ward. Just because of an existing issue with highways doesn't mean we should add to that."

Brownhills Councillor Stephen Wade said it would create too much noise and was 'one step too far'.

St Matthews Councillor

by Lisa O'Brien

Aftab Nawaz also voted to turn down the proposals over potential noise issues.

He told the meeting that 'metal on metal' created a very sharp noise, adding: "It's not the kind of noise residents should have to put up with."

The application was refused on the grounds it would have a negative impact on residents and over potential traffic and noise issues.

Meanwhile, Walsall Housing Group's plans to replace a former multi-storey car park with one half the size in Caldmore were given the go-ahead at the same meeting, despite dozens of objections.

Ramblers set for short village trek



Chair of the Walsall branch of the Ramblers Dick Turton gets his boots at the ready for Alrewas

WALKING fans from Walsall can take part in jaunt through a Staffordshire village this weekend.

The borough's Ramblers branch will be going on a short walk this Saturday.

And the outing will take in a four-mile route from Alrewas to Wychnor Country Club and returning via the National Forest Trail.

The terrain will be canal side walking, country lanes and an open and forest trail that is home to hares.

Newcomers are welcome to join in the walk. The meeting place is the car park at Oak Park Leisure Centre, in Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood at 10.15am.

Details are available from the walk leader on 0121 440 7929.

Organiser Dick Turton says this walk is part of a programme of short Saturday walks held fortnightly and are aimed at those who are either new to walking or have not done any for some time.

Details are also on www.walsallramblers.co.uk/html/programme_of_short_saturday_wa.html

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Walsall boss says he is proud to head up the FA

Pupils hatch gardens plan



Pelsall Village School chicken Shirley helps out in the mini gardens project with Ruby Adams, aged seven, Lila Stepien and Jacob Hope, seven

STUDENTS from a primary school in Walsall have got their hands dirty as part of a community project with energy and home services provider British Gas.

Green-fingered children from Pelsall Village School in Old Town Lane, planted hundreds of bulbs, seeds and flowers to create miniature gardens to take home.

British Gas and its contractors are holding a series of community events in Walsall whilst they carry out insulation work on 3,000 homes as part of an energy saving project in the town.

Children in Years 3 and 4 spent the day getting muddy and creative, designing their own mini gardens out of recycled items they had col-

lected beforehand to house different seedlings for them to nurture and grow.

They planted pansies, gladioli and sunflowers in the gardens they had made and the children were awarded a variety of different prizes including tomato and strawberry growing kits, paint-your-own-gnome sets and goodie bags for their efforts.

Ashley, aged eight, who took part in the project, said: "I enjoyed the gardening lesson, the best part was making the garden, I loved it! It was very intense when they announced the winner," while Madison, also eight, added: "I enjoyed it and thought it was very creative. I think it will help us in the future."

A BUSINESSMAN from Walsall has been handed one of the most important jobs in English football – chief executive of the FA.

Martin Glenn said he was incredibly proud to be given the prestigious role.

Wolves fan Mr Glenn went to St Francis of Assisi Comprehensive, Aldridge, and still has a season ticket at Molineux.

He previously led a deal to sponsor the club's shirts when he was the boss of Walkers Snack Foods, with Doritos sponsoring Wolves from 2002 to 2004.

The 54-year-old, who went to his first Wolves game in 1967, said: "I am incredibly proud to have been chosen to play my part in shaping the future direction of the FA."

"There are few more important and interesting places to work than Wembley Stadium and St George's Park and I am very much looking forward to meeting the staff and leading them into an exciting new period."



Martin Glenn

Involved

"I have coached football at grassroots level, have sat on the board of a Premier League football club at Leicester City and have spent my time on the terraces at Molineux where I have a season ticket."

"I hope this informs my work at the FA as we look to inspire everyone to be involved in what is the nation's most watched and played team sport."

"I very much hope my personal experience of operating in highly competitive global markets will help the FA in its own drive to promote greater success for all of our national teams in international tournaments," said Mr Glenn.

The new football chief has also worked at PepsiCo UK and left his job as chief executive at United Biscuits, home to McVitie's and Jacobs, to land the FA role.

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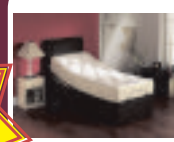
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Magic day booked up for youngsters



Students seen in their outfits for the books event at Ormiston Academy, all as characters from the Harry Potter books. STAFF and students from a Walsall school embraced World Book Day by dressing up as a range of characters from their favourite books, past and present. These included Alice in Wonderland, the Mad Hatter, Willy Wonka, Peter Pan, The Capitol from the Hunger Games series and Harry Potter.

Students took part in a range of activities including at Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy's 'drop everything and read' initiative. Students took part in various competitions throughout the day.

Commenting on the event, Principal Paula Ward said "Here at Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy, we are proud to be a reading community and it was fantastic to see so many staff and students get into the spirit of World Book

Bob is civic awards host



Bob Warman

A TV presenter will be hosting the 11th annual Mayor of Walsall's Civic Awards later this month.

The awards, which are known as the Doras after nursing heroine Sister Dora, aim to recognise unsung heroes who work tirelessly to help others.

They are being held at Walsall Town Hall on March 20. Walsall-born TV presenter Bob Warman will return as the celebrity compere since his last appearance in 2013. Mr Warman started his career as a journalist with the Wal-

sall Observer and is now the senior presenter of ITV Central which broadcasts nightly to over a million viewers in the Midlands.

Walsall's Mayor, Councillor Pete Smith said: "I am delighted that Bob has agreed to host this year's awards as he is the most instantly recognised media face in Central England."

"He has hosted the awards in 2008, 2009 and in 2013 and is always brilliant on the night so we are delighted that he has agreed to host the awards again. We are really excited for the big night and I'm really looking forward to our unsung heroes getting the recognition they so richly deserve."

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Children's centre staff joy at outstanding rating

A CHILDREN'S centre in Pelsall has been awarded an outstanding rating by Ofsted after their first inspection. Pelsall Sure Start Children's Centre received the highest rating possible.

The library-based centre was deemed outstanding in all three areas. It was judged on access to services by young children and families, the quality of practice and services and the effectiveness of leadership, governance and management.

The service began in 2010 as an outreach service and moved into the building in 2012. It is one of 18 children's centres in Walsall.

Councillor Gary Perry, chair of the children's centres advisory

board said: "We have received great feedback from parents and we were confident that we would do well. To get outstanding was our aim but to actually achieve it is just fantastic."

The inspectors visited St Michael's Primary School and observed 'St Michael's Mini'. They also observed 'Book Start', and jointly observed 'Terrific Twos' at Pelsall Children's Centre with the centre manager.

The Ofsted report found that information sharing between the centre and its partners is 'exemplary' and 'highly effective' outreach work have resulted in all children and their families being registered. It is open Monday to Friday, with additional activities held at weekends.



Front, Councillor Gary Perry, Kellyanne Perry and Steph Holder with Jesse, aged 21 months

Third of pitches at market are empty

ALMOST a third of stalls on Walsall market are empty, a new report has revealed. There are 100 pitches available on the existing town centre market but a report by Walsall Council's Planning Committee shows that recorded peak occupancy is just 51 traders over 70 pitches.

Plans to relocate and downsize the market were on the agenda at a recent meeting. The proposals for the new market include operating during the same times, 8.30am-5pm, but could see the market open seven days a week.

Currently it does not open on Thursdays or Sundays. The market is located across The Bridge, Park Street, Bradford Street, Lower Hall Lane and Digbeth is subject to a temporary planning permission which ends next month. If the application is approved, it would allow the transition from the existing layout to the permanent location. The new market would have 70 stalls. Plans were recommended for approval.

Jail for son in theft of £1,000 ring and money

A MAN who stole a £1,000 engagement ring and cash from the home of his mother's neighbours whom he befriended has been jailed for two years.

Liam Bedworth, aged 22, went into the property in Station Street, Darlaston, in the early hours of July 1 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

But the family's pet dog started to bark and the noise woke up his distraught victims who saw him leaving the premises at about 3.30am.

It was later discovered that the platinum ring and a handbag containing £40 was missing.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said the householders lived two doors away from Bedworth's mother where he was staying at the time and they saw him as a friend.

Confronted

"When the husband looked outside to see what was going on the dog was outside and the defendant was in the next door garden.

"He confronted him, but Bedworth ran off and at that stage the police were called.

"The handbag was recovered in an outbuilding at an adjoining property."

Mr Searle continued: "He made a partial confession by in a message via social media, but was arrested after he failed to turn up at the magistrates' court and a warrant was issued for him," Mr Searle said.

In a statement the family said they had 'trusted' the defendant and the incident

by Jordan Harris

had 'caused them a great deal of upset'.

Mr Searle said a child in the home had found out about what had happened and now has difficulty sleeping as a result.

Bedworth admitted an offence of burglary at a previous hearing.

Miss Blondel Thompson, defending barrister, told the court that Bedworth, formerly of Stoney Lane, Little Bloxwich, had been going through problems with alcohol and financial difficulties, and was remorseful.

But Mr Recorder Ciaran Rankin told him: "This is an extremely mean offence.

"You were in a place of trust with the family which you breached.

"In my view the premises was deliberately targeted.

"You befriended the people, you knew the property and you knew the dog.

You knew they were easy pickings."

He sentenced Bedworth to two years in prison.

He must serve half of the term before being released.

The defendant was also ordered to pay £120 victim's surcharge.

Screwdriver horror for workman in fall

A WORKMAN renovating a Staffordshire pub was airlifted to hospital after falling on a 10-inch long screwdriver.

Ambulance crews found the 60-year old with the tool sticking out of his abdomen at the Railway Tavern in Norton Canes.

They were called to the pub, in Norton Green Lane, at about 1.20pm yesterday.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "The ambulance staff carefully dressed the wound while leaving the screwdriver, which had gone in several inches, in place.

"He was also given pain relief and other drugs to counteract any internal bleeding.

"He was then airlifted to the major trauma centre at Royal Stoke University Hospital for specialist treatment including the safe removal of the screwdriver.

"It is hoped he will make a full recovery."

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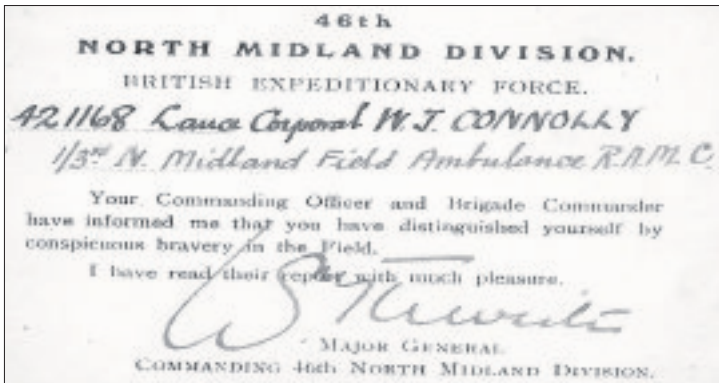
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William, with his Military Medal, and Lillian after he was injured



The postcard from Major General Thwaites, mentioning the medic's conspicuous bravery



L/Cpl Connolly with his wife, Lillian, during the Great War

Army medic was pride of town

THE 137th Staffordshire Brigade made a vital and momentous contribution to the defeat of the Germans in the First World War when it broke the much-vaunted and formidable Hindenburg Line on the St Quentin Canal at Bellelisle.

This was the last German defensive barrier on the Western Front and it was stormed by soldiers drawn mostly from in and around Wolverhampton, Walsall, Burton-on-Trent and Hanley.

That victorious Brigade belonged to the 46th North Midland Division. It was one of the 14 peace-time divisions of the Territorial Force, which had been organised in 1908 with the aim of training part-time soldiers for home defence in the event of war.

As for the 137th Staffordshire Brigade it was made up of four battalions: two each from North and South Staffordshire. The 5th South Staffordshire Regiment had its headquarters and four companies at Walsall, with other companies at Bloxwich, Hednesford, Handsworth and Wednesbury; the 6th battalion was based in Wolverhampton, where it had three companies, with others in Willenhall, Sedgley, Darlaston, Bilston and Tettenhall. Its main recruiting

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

centre was at the Drill Hall in Stafford Street, Wolverhampton. The Brigade was made up not only of infantrymen and gunners but also of engineers and medics, who belonged to the Field Ambulance of Royal Army Medical Corps.

Among the Wolverhampton men of the 1/3rd North Midland Field Ambulance was Lance Corporal William J Connolly, Army number 421168. He was actively involved in the final months of the war, which began in March 1918 when General Ludendorff launched the German Spring offensive as a last attempt to gain victory.

Its initial successes were dramatic and demoralising, but after the Germans were finally repulsed in their attempts to capture Amiens, Ludendorff shifted his attacks to the north and the Ypres Salient in Flanders. In the Battle of Lys, his troops made significant gains but a final drive to capture the Channel ports was repulsed on April 29.

With the battle still raging, the next evening L/Cpl Connolly was the duty NCO at an advanced dressing station near to Gorre, a hamlet just to the east of Bethune that had been

turned into a support post. That night and into the next day, it was heavily bombed with mustard gas shells by the enemy. Distinguishing himself with conspicuous bravery, L/Cpl Connolly was awarded the Military Medal on August 30. The citation read that he 'remained at duty, despite incessant vomiting, till he could neither see or stand. His courage and devotion to duty was a good example to the men of the unit, and to the gassed men of other units who were passing through the dressing station'.

Having lost much of his sight, the valorous Wulfrunian was eventually moved to Bellahouston Hospital in Glasgow. Here he was visited by his wife of six months, Lillian, from whom he had been parted two days after their wedding.

After his recovery, Bill Connolly returned to Wolverhampton and was presented with 'a beautiful gold pocket watch' which his granddaughter Elizabeth Thompson is proud to have.

Elizabeth is keen to know if this watch 'was presented at a special ceremony and whether any other Wolverhampton men won medals and were given such a gift by the town'. She explains that before the Great War, her grandfather was 'a skilled Art Metal Worker, having served as an apprentice with F.J.J Gibbons from July 22, 1907 to April 23, 1911'. Elizabeth remembers that because of the mustard gas, her grandfather's 'chest and lungs were badly damaged'.

She adds: 'His eyesight was also impaired and I believe that he was the first person to have a corneal graft operation at Wolverhampton and West Midlands Eye Infirmary.' This came about because in 1942, Bill had a piece of grit removed from his left eye at the Infirmary. During the examination of his eye it was discovered that there was something else seriously wrong with his eye - the mustard gas had badly affected his cornea.

Bill began to go blind as his right eye was also impaired and then in 1951 a young German went to the Infirmary suffering from a tumour. However, the cornea remained healthy and after his eye was removed he gave permission for it to be grafted onto Bill's left eye.

Then the doctors turned their attention to Bill's right eye. Then in December 1952 another German walked into the Infirmary. He had to have his eye removed but also helped the Englishman. A few days later Bill had an operation and for several days afterwards lay in bed with his eyes covered in bandages until a nurse did not replace them in quite the usual way.

In his words, Bill 'took a sly peep' and was filled with great joy. He could see to the end of the room 'like a brilliantly lit theatre. The wheel had gone full circle. The debt had been repaid in full. The Germans who had deprived him of his sight had given him back his sight'.



William Connolly in his uniform

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Jobs on the horizon as club to get a send-off

A NIGHTCLUB in Walsall which has seen thousands of revellers come through its doors over the past 13 years will close for the final time on Saturday.

The closure is to make way for a brand new venture bringing new jobs. WS1 nightclub will undergo a massive revamp and reopen under the new name of Religion on April 2.

The scheme will create around 25 jobs – more than doubling the current workforce at the venue in Bridge Street.

Among the improvements being carried out, the new-look club will boast bigger rooms, a new sound system and video walls.

Bosses say they also have special guests lined up for the launch night and intend to give the club a good send off on the last night.

General manager Nick Parkinson said: "We are looking to rejuvenate the night-time economy in Walsall and it will also be creating about 25 jobs."

Modern

"We have 23 staff so it is more than doubling the workforce."

"Nightclubs have a shelf life and it is a relatively old club. We've been here 13 years. Now is the time to make it more modern."

"We are spending an awful lot of money on this."

"We are having new sound systems, video walls and a terrace three times as big."

"There's massive structural changes to the building as well."

He said the nightclub would also get a new look

by Lisa O'Brien

with rooms being made larger by knocking walls through and roofs have also been taken off.

The venue, which will remain under the same ownership, will host a closing down party on Saturday when former DJs will be invited back.

Mr Parkinson said: "We are hosting a reunion for our loyal customers, staff and DJs. We are going to have a good knees up."

"We have a lot of memories we hang on to but it's exciting to be at the start of something new."

Religion will launch at the site, with special guests including Nottingham DJ Philip George, who is best known for his 2014 single, Wish You Were Mine, which peaked to number two on the UK singles chart.

Mr Parkinson added: "It will be amazing to open with a massive headliner. Stuff like this doesn't happen in Walsall."

The club wants to hear from anyone who has DJ'd at the club in the past and would like to take part in the closing down party.

For more information, call 01922 644242.

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Gordon's at the double for fundraising night

DINERS in Streety were left scratching their head when TV chef Gordon Ramsay seemed to appear at a restaurant during a charity fundraiser.

However the fiery blond-haired figure in the chef's outfit was not the real deal, but lookalike Martin Jordan.

Martin made the guest appearance to meet staff and visitors at the Little Bengal, in Blackwood Road, for the event in aid of St Giles Hospice this week.

The Indian and Bangladeshi restaurant held the event after reopening following a £24,000 revamp to their facilities. Customers were given a tour of the new kitchen, and free food samples from the new menu.

They were also given a chance to meet the impersonator of the star behind popular cooking programmes Hell's Kitchen and The F Word. The free event raised more than £200 in public donations while staff generously gave half-a-day's wages to the total to take the amount to above £500.

Jamal Ahmed, manager at the Little Bengal restaurant said that some customers thought Mr Ramsay's body double Mr Jordan was the real deal.

"Martin was absolutely great, people really enjoyed it. You really can't tell the different between him and Gordon – he even talks like him, it's crazy," he said.

"We thought it would be something a bit different and eye-catching."

The Ramsay doppelganger has made a living out of his likeness to the TV chef, appearing on shows including Louie Spence's Showbusiness, The Chris Moyles Quiz Show and reaching the semi-final of talent show Britain's Got Talent as part of the 'The Chippendoules'.

Mr Jordan has even worked with the man himself on a series of television adverts as well as featuring on Gordon Ramsay's Cookalong live show.



Gordon Ramsey seen in action



Martin Jordan and chef Badsha Miah

Burt is on debating panel

A GROUP of Conservative-supporting Christians staged a Question Time-style event with business chiefs and politicians including a former foreign office minister.

The Conservative Christian Fellowship's Listening to Britain's Churches event was held at St John's Methodist Church in Walsall.

Alistair Burt was visiting the area to support Walsall North's parliamentary hopeful Douglas Hansen-Luke. And they took part in the session along

with entrepreneur Kevin Davies, and vicars Rev Roger Williams and Rev Mike Bachelor. Mr Hansen-Luke said: "I make no secret of the fact that I'm a Christian. Eighty per cent of residents in Bloxwich, Walsall and Willenhall are Christian and I welcomed the opportunity to answer their questions."

"Interesting and some surprising questions came up. The role of religion in education, ethics, trust, faith, political correctness and, less surprisingly, trust in politicians and other leaders."

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The Railway Children at York Railway Museum

Three days departing August 14



Prior to the matinee performance, time is set aside to explore the delights of the medieval city of York which offers a whole host of attractions such as York Minster, Barley Hall and Clifford's Tower (entrance fees payable locally), and for shopaholics there are many top High Street stores along with a superb and diverse selection of gift shops.

Also included in the break is a visit to the National Media Museum, a must see attraction which is set over nine floors showcasing every aspect of the media world, from television, gaming and animation, through a mixture of collections, exhibitions and interactive galleries.

The itinerary includes a trip to Haworth, a quaint Yorkshire village made up of cobbled streets and alleyways. This is where Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights were created by the Bronte sisters. This is followed by a journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, which has been restored to recreate the atmosphere of a 1950s branch line, and included in many film and TV productions including The Railway Children.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ticket for the performance of The Railway Children at York Railway museum (*ticket upgrade offered*)
- Visit to the National Media Museum, Bradford
- Free time in York and Haworth
- Journey on Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Pick of the week



PRICE FROM **£189**

Follow the adventures of Bobby, Peter and Phyllis in this award-winning production of The Railway Children at The National Railway Museum in York – a unique and exciting location where the tracks are the stage and the seats are on the platform. The production even features the Pannier Tank 5775 used in the film adaptation.

The enchanting show tells the delightful story of three Edwardian children plucked from their London home to live in rural Yorkshire close to a railway line.

Kew Gardens Tree Tops Walk and Hampton Court

Two days departing June 20



PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Kew Gardens and Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop walkway
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace, Gardens and Maze
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Space Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall

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Emmerdale Country and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sep 25



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Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Four days departing June 26



PRICE FROM **£269**

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- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House
- Visits to Ryde, Godshill, Yarmouth and The Needles Park at Alum Bay
- Tour and wine tasting at the Rosemary Vineyard
- Entrance to Ventnor Botanic Gardens and a cream tea
- Free time in Cowes
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Afternoon Tea at the Ritz

Two days departing April 26 and Sept 13



PRICE FROM **£199**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne bar St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Norfolk Gardens and The Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3



PRICE FROM **£219**

- Return coach travel
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- Visit to Cambridge
- Norfolk Lavender Caley Mill Grounds Tour
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham Gardens
- Visit to the Lavender Oil Distillery
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Cunard 175th Anniversary in Liverpool

Two days departing May 24



PRICE FROM **£109**

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- Visit to Liverpool to see the three Cunard Queens; Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria on the Mersey
- Visit to Chester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Portsmouth from Sea to Sky

Three days departing April 25



PRICE FROM **£209**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
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Six days various departure dates



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Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)



Accent put on regional tour of UK

Wolverhampton Women's Luncheon Club

AT the February meeting at the Lindens, Tetterhall Road, chairman Val Billings welcomed 74 member, two guests and speaker Derek Poulson.

The chairman commented on the good weather and the crocus bulbs coming out in Wolverhampton, showing that spring is on its way.

She said Grace before lunch was served of wild mushroom soup, breast of chicken with bacon and thyme and peach melba, followed by tea or coffee with mints.

She mentioned the visit to the National Arboretum on Wednesday, 22, when a tree will be planted at 3pm.

A guided tour of the site costs £3 each and husbands and friends are welcome.

The speaker, a Yorkshireman, gave his talk on "It's not what you say, but the way that you say it".

He said at the age of 15, he wanted to go on the stage and he moved to the south of England where he learned to speak differently.

Derek took the members on a tour of the UK and Ireland, changing his accent to suit the region and making everyone laugh all the way through and especially when he reached the West Midlands and spoke about Upper and Lower Gornal. He felt that the West Midlands accent is the closest to Ancient English.

He now lives in Stoke-on-Trent and spoke fondly of The Potteries.

High standard from a competitive field



Winners Pam Booth-Jones and Tony Leech

Wolverhampton Bridge Club

PAM Booth-Jones and Tony Leech won the Mixed Pairs competition. Mike Barlow and Eileen Woolverton came second in a strong field of 26 players.

Chairman Ron Stevenson congratulated the winners and all players for the high standard of the competition and thanked the members who provided some delicious home baked cakes during the interval.

The Mixed Pairs competition, played on Sunday, March 1, is first in the club's annual programme of competitive bridge for pairs and teams.

Wolverhampton Bridge Club meets every weekday evening and Monday and Friday afternoons. Experienced players and beginners can join a range of social, competitive and learning bridge sessions at the well-adapted clubhouse at Shaw Park Business Village, Wolverhampton.

Congratulations to Denise following award of an MBE

Codsall Wood WI

BARBARA Hodson congratulated Denise Moreton who has been awarded the OBE.

Members enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch and £148 was raised in lieu of cards and donations, which was divided between Deansley and heart and lung wards.

After the business and singing of Jerusalem, the group welcomed Tina Lloyd.

She proceeded to get everyone warmed up with exercises and then introduced everyone to Tai Chi.

Tina set up a dance school and was then asked to do age concern classes. She does exercise work in care homes and nursing homes.

After a demonstration,

everyone joined in with some of the Tai Chi moves, which are slow and very good fun, whatever your age.

A very good evening was enjoyed by all. The competition of an oriental item was won by Brenda.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, which will be the Annual Meeting.

Poundland mogul cuts home price by £750,000

THE founder of Black Country success story Poundland has cut the price of his mansion in a bid to find a buyer.

Businessman Steve Smith, who is originally from Portobello, Willenhall, put seven-bedroom Hammer Hill House in Romsley Lane, Romsley, near Alveley, on the market for £6.5 million last year.

The house, which has 28.2 acres of land, including four paddocks, has now been cut to £5.75m on Mr Smith's own online estate agents EstatesDirect.com.

Mr Smith, aged 51, who sold his share of Willenhall-based Poundland for a reported £50m in 2002, bought the mansion which has a heated indoor swimming pool, grand hall and two gatehouse lodges for £2.2m 15 years ago.

He said when the house was put on the market that he and his wife Tracy had decided to downsize after their three children left home.

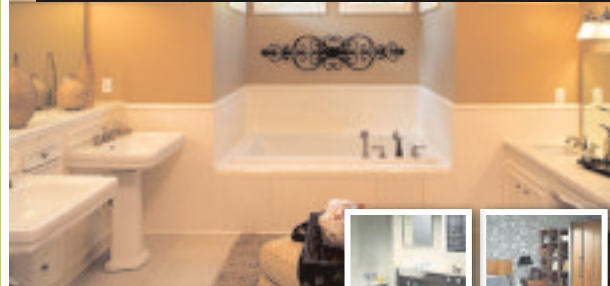
They plan to stay in the area, but are looking for something a little more modest. Mr Smith said that by using his online estate agency he would save £115,000 in commission.

Hammer Hill House was designed in 1923 by the famous architect Sir Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis who also created the Italianate village of Portmeirion in North Wales.

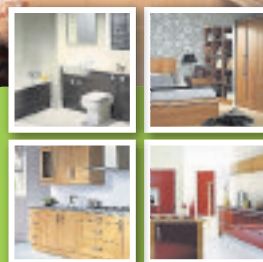
Mr Smith said that there had been strong interest in buying the mansion.

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Dan gets claws into banjo style

INTERVIEW

by Danny Farragher

MIDLANDS musician Dan Walsh is considered the best clawhammer, five-string banjo player these isles have produced.

However, it was sheer flook which started him on his journey to being a world renowned player.

Walsh, now aged 27, from Baswich, Stafford began his musical journey as a pre-teen enamoured of the guitar.

"I started playing guitar when I was about nine or ten and that was the dream, the guitar was where it was at, that is what I always wanted to do.

"But then I got into Irish and Scottish music and heard the banjo and thought I would give it a go, I never really thought it would become the main instrument - just an extra to the guitar, but within a year it was what I was best at."

Accident

This was where fate took a hand. "Choosing the five-string banjo was a complete accident," laughs Walsh. "When I was 13, no one in Stafford really knew anything about banjos.

"I just heard it and thought I wanted to play it. I had no idea there were different banjos or different ways of playing them. I just fancied the sound.

"So my parents went to the local music shop and asked if they knew anyone who taught banjo, they were given the name of a guy from Cannock, George Davies.

"I owe him everything. He was the best teacher I could have ever had.

"When he mentioned teaching me clawhammer style it meant nothing to me, so I ended up playing five string and it wasn't until about year later I realised I had ended up playing the wrong instrument. I realised the music and banjo I had been listening to was the tenor, but by then it was a bit late to change.

"So then I had to find a way to play that kind of music (Irish/Scottish)



Dan Walsh with his five-string banjo which has earned him world renown

clawhammer style which became something of a niche for me, so I can't claim it was planned at all. But I am very glad it happened."

Walsh went on to study folk music at degree level in Newcastle upon Tyne which and he stayed in the North East for a couple of years after graduating before coming back to his home town.

Although armed with a new knowledge of the music he played it was his previous lack of understanding about the banjo that was instrumental in his development and enthusiasm for the keeping things fresh and experimental.

"I never really had a specific idea of what the banjo did when I took it up. I had never heard of bluegrass so I never really had the firm idea of what it could do, and I think that's probably never really left me.

"It became a never-ending experiment and I felt there was so much that

hadn't been done with it that I could take it in new directions.

"I remember meeting some Indian musicians in London and the music just blew my mind. It just immediately struck a chord with me and I really wanted to study the music, and I play the banjo, so it never occurred to me not to do it on the banjo."

This has also spurred something of a crusade in the musician to bring more banjo music to the masses.

"I guess I am on a bit of a crusade. I don't go out thinking this is banjo music and YOU ARE going to enjoy it, but I do like to win people round."

His new album Incidents & Accidents is due out on March 16. Dan Walsh performs at The Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford on Friday. Entry is £6 for members and £1 extra for non-members, show starts around 8.30pm. He then plays The Met at Gatehouse, Stafford on March 17 at 8pm. Tickets are £10.

Rocker Noel is flying high again

Album Reviews

By Leon Burakowski

MAYBE the title Chasing Yesterday is Noel Gallagher's re-tort to those who accuse him of recycling great sounds from rock's past, be that The Beatles, Mod or Glam rock.

Whatever, the second album, on his Sour Mash label, from Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds is his best work since 2002 Oasis album Heathen Chemistry.

It opens with Riverman, a Paul Weller-like title for a Weller-like song, then unleashes an absolute corker In The Heat Of The Moment, which rings bells literally and figuratively as a reminder of prime Oasis.

The Girl With X-Ray Eyes is a Beatles-ish stadium pleaser and Lock All The Doors is a guitar-grinding thriller.

Most interesting is the jazzy psychedelic chugger The Right Stuff (the sort of song the Gallaghers would once have dismissed as 'space jazz') and funky rocker The Mexican.

You Know We Can't Go Back has a satisfying jangle and the soaring closer Ballad Of The Mighty I features former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr for a double dose of Mancunian guitar brilliance.

A deluxe version of the album features three extra new tracks and a remix of In The Heat Of The Moment.

Liverpudlian X Factor runner-up Rebecca Ferguson was one of the show's more interesting finds with a smoky vocal that suggested classic jazz and soul vocalists, and the chance to hear that kind of voice in contemporary setting. So at first Lady Sings The Blues seems a backward step for the singer, who is signed to Simon Cowell's Syco label.

Surely the singer is on a hiding to nothing performing songs by the inimitable Billie Holiday, to whom she has been compared. However, Ferguson acquits herself well with a more



Noel Gallagher — his best work since 2002's Heathen Chemistry

soulful take on these classic songs, such as Embraceable You, That Ole Devil Called Love and God Bless The Child, recorded at LA's legendary Capitol Studios. It is classy easy listening and Ferguson wisely doesn't attempt a cover of Holiday's most iconic, and chilling, song Strange Fruit.

Dreamface (EML) is a seething album of alternative metal from powerhouse Liverpool trio Elevant, who contrast the hard riffing with acoustic guitar interludes on their second album. Listen if you like Royal Blood, Muse or Queens of the Stone Age. Hawkwind-like howler Nothing is a highlight.

Northern Ireland's The Answer rock back with Raise A Little Hell (Napalm Records), traditional swaggering heavy rock with fancy fretwork guitar solos and sore throated vocals.

They'll give Birmingham Institute in Digbeth a good rocking on March 20.

Only a year on from their debut album Down Like Gold, Isle of Wight's Champs (brothers Michael and David Champion) are fine tuning their melancholy pop sound on Vamala (Play It Again Sam).

Michael's vocals have a hint of Robin Gibb and their songs a slightly otherworldly feel, like Crowded House recorded by Joe Meek.

Enjoyment of The Slow Show entirely depends on what you make of singer Rob Goodwin's mannered vocals, kind of Lou Reed meets Leonard Cohen.

Contemporary

The Mancunian band make a moody meditative sound on White Water (Haldern Pop Recordings), like Elbow with a hangover.

Classy country music duo The Shires (Crisis Rhodes and Ben Earle) hail from the Home Counties rather than Nashville but they make fine contemporary country songs on Brave, released on the Decca Nashville label. In a similar vein to Lady Antebellum. They play Birmingham Institute on April 17.

Practically unheard of in the UK, The Goldebrins released a couple of folk albums in mid-1960s America before their third was shelved because they split up.

You can hear the roots of sunshine pop in the gorgeous harmonies of sisters Dotti and Sheri Holmberg. If things had gone better they could have been rivals to The Mamas & the Papas.

Now Sounds have released the first anthology of the group, Walkin' Down The Line: The Best Of The Goldebrins, with 30 tracks including both albums, demos and material that was intended for the ill-fated third album.

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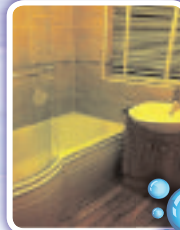
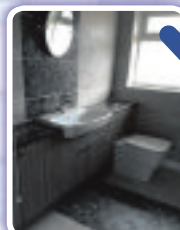
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Village pub reopens after transformation



Emma Hill and head chef Gary Watts at the Star Inn, Great Wyrley, which has reopened after a 13-month

A POPULAR pub which served last orders in 2013 has now reopened following a 13-month long renovation.

New owners have taken over The Star Inn, in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley and have transformed the village pub and restaurant, at a cost of £350,000.

The challenge was taken on by two brothers who, after completing the mammoth refurbishment, have welcomed back drinkers and diners. The Star was a focal point for community activities including the summer carnival and bonfire celebrations.

Lynn Humphris, aged 51, and her husband Trevor, 53, teamed up with his brother Gary and wife Maria to open the now family-run pub. The team from Cheslyn Hay bought the premises 18 months ago after it had closed down and started what would become a 13-month project to bring it back to life. The reopening has created more than 13 full and part time jobs.

Mrs Humphris, said: "My husband and his brother decided to buy the pub and I told him I would divorce him if he did, but it was their project and we decided to go for it and the renovations began."

New boss to head up Blakemore operation

A NEW managing director has been appointed for a cash and carry business.

Willenhall-based A F Blakemore & Son has chosen Craig O'Connor to lead the firm's Blakemore Wholesale cash and carry operation, which has its head office at Wolverhampton Science Park.

Mr O'Connor joined A F Blakemore from Grimsby-based wholesaler D B Ramsden on March 2 and will report to Sam Wilcox, who will continue as overall managing director for the company's wholesale divisions.

He was appointed managing director of D B Ramsden in 2004 where he has also served as managing director of Re-Scan Epos Solutions since 2006.

It will be Mr O'Connor's second spell at A F Blakemore, having worked in a variety of roles across the company's cash and carry business between 1984 and 2003.

Mr O'Connor said that he was proud to return to A F Blakemore, which is now the largest member of the Landmark Group and is looking forward to once again playing a part in the company's success story.

He said: "While A F Blakemore now has the scale it remains a family

business with strong values and we are perfectly placed to seize the opportunities that are out there.

"I now want to share my experiences over the past few years, especially in relation to delivered wholesale, on-trade and the utilisation of IT solutions to help improve the overall customer experience."

Mr Wilcox said: "I am delighted to welcome Craig O'Connor back to A F Blakemore. I look forward to working with him again as the company focuses upon its 2020 strategic goals."

"Craig has a proven track record with a strong reputation across the wholesale cash & carry sector for introducing new and innovative approaches to business."



Anything you need – so much to choose from for the restorer

COMPETITION

Classic chance for close-up of 'priceless rust'

HUNDREDS of polished classic cars, restoration projects and barn finds made up of 'priceless rust' are set to appear at Birmingham's NEC soon as the Practical Classics Restoration and Classic Car Show returns to the West Midlands.

Organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 45 lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

Around 500 classic cars are expected to be on display with 100 car clubs revealing their ongoing and completed restoration projects.

There will be a trio of restoration showcases with the grand final of the Restorer of the Year and the Pride of Restoration, completed by enthusiasts in their home garages and 'Epic Restorations' completed by some of the most skilled craftsmen in the UK.

There will be the UK's biggest display of barn finds in the Heritage Barn Find showcase with around 25 vehicles, found in various states of repair.

Celebrity guests include the Wheeler Dealers Mike Brewer and Edd China, and Car SOS' Fuzz Townshend as well as Red Dwarf's Chris Barrie.

There will be car parades, a 48-hr restoration and classic game shows, with great prizes up for grabs. Expert advice will also be on offer.

If you're more about driving than restoring, take a Dream Ride with the Sporting Bears – a 10-mile ride as passenger in one of the cars from the Dream Rides Garage in exchange for a donation to charity. Silverstone Auctions will be back with its Restoration Sale.



Chance to see all variety of cars



HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

Who runs the Restoration Sale?

Send your answers (postcard only) with full address and contact number to Classic Cars Competition, Chronicle Editorial, 52-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Tuesday, March 17. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

*Ticket prices have been frozen so to book tickets and for the latest updates, visit www.necrestoration-show.com

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CHOICE



You're Back in the Room (ITV, 8.20pm)
New series. Phillip Schofield is joined by renowned illusionist Keith Barry in a game show where five strangers team up to win a potential £25,000 by completing apparently simple challenges. The only things standing between them and the money are their own minds – because they have all been hypnotised. Over the course of four rounds, the tasks get much harder as their hypnotic triggers cause the players to inadvertently sabotage their chances of winning. This week, celebrity chefs Lesley Waters, Paul Rankin, Ed Baines and Aldo Zilli join in the fun.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. **(R 12.00)** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Ireland (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.15** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first of two knockout rounds this weekend, in which Rita Ora and Will.i.am reduce their teams down to the three acts that will perform in the live shows. The vocalists each choose a solo song and step into the spotlight for what could be the final time, knowing that five out of each group will be leaving disappointed at the end of the day. Continues tomorrow. **8.30** **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Plus, the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin. Last in the series. **9.20** **Casualty.** Lily is involved in an accident on her way home from work when her moped collides with a schoolgirl – and when she admits she was tired, the youngster's father is furious. Has the young doctor jeopardised her career? The medics grow suspicious of a couple when urine tests on a mother and her baby bring up traces of amphetamines. Connie and Rita agree as the team continues to be overworked, while Cal steals money from Ethan for Taylor's charity. **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, including Burnley v Manchester City at Turf Moor and Arsenal v West Ham United at the Emirates Stadium; National Lottery Update. **11.50** **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents. **1.10** EastEnders. **3.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Jules Verne's Rocket to the Moon. (1967) **8.10** Six Nations Rewind. **9.10** Six Nations Rewind. **(R 10.10)** The Fred Dibnah Story. **(R 10.40)** The Fred Dibnah Story. **(R 11.10)** The Nature of Britain. **(R 12.00)** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. **(R 12.55)** Kenneth More: Talking Pictures. **1.25 Film:** North West Frontier. (1959) Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall and Kenneth More. **3.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. **(R 4.30)** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! **(R)** **6.00** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don has advice on how to get the best out of hellebores, and Carol Klein visits a couple hoping to create the garden of their dreams over the coming year with her help. **(R)** **6.30** **Afghanistan: A Service of Commemoration Highlights.** Coverage of yesterday's ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, where the Queen led a service to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, followed by a parade and a fly-past paying tribute to everyone involved in the 13-year campaign. Huw Edwards presents. **7.30** **How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson.** The science author explores innovations in capturing and transmitting sound, including a look at the printer in France who first recorded the human voice. Last in the series. **7.30** **How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson.** The science author explores innovations in capturing and transmitting sound, including a look at the printer in France who first recorded the human voice. Last in the series. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring is alarmed to discover the extent of butcher Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis and takes drastic measures to help him. Comedy from 1975, starring Clive Dunn. **(R)** **9.00** **Film: Hockney.** (2014) Premiere. Documentary exploring the career of acclaimed artist David Hockney. The film uses previously unseen home movies and photographs taken from his personal archive to create a visual diary of Hockney's life, and examines his upbringing in working-class Bradford, his relocation to America, the influences on his work and his desire to escape categorisation. **10.45** **Film: Enigma.** (2001) A gifted mathematician employed to crack Germany's latest cipher fears a female colleague he has fallen for is a spy. Second World War drama, with Dougray Scott. **12.40** **Film:** Puppet on a Chain. (1971) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. **(R 6.20)** Bottom Knockor Street. **(R 6.35)** Dino Dan. **(R 6.45)** Dino Dan. **(R 7.00)** Animals. **(R 7.10)** Sooty. **(R 7.25)** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **(R 7.30)** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **(R 7.50)** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R 10.20)** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R 12.25)** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R 1.35)** Tipping Point. **(R 2.35)** Doc Martin. **(R 3.35)** Secrets from the Sky. **(R 4.05)** Off Their Rockers. **(R 4.35)** Big Star's Little Star. **(R 5.35)** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Weddings.** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. **(R)** **7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Georgie duo go head to head in this week's high-stakes round of Ant v Dec overseen by Ashley Roberts, Little Ant and Dec cause more mayhem and there's a spectacular End of the Show Show with tango masters Vincent Simone and Flavia Vacante. The Supercomputer hits the road again, and another member of the studio audience plays to win the contents of a commercial break. **8.20** **You're Back in the Room.** New series. Game show in which five strangers are hypnotised by Keith Barry and must tackle apparently simple challenges as a team, hoping to win £25,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** A Madonna special in which the Queen of Pop talks about her infamous fall on stage at last month's Brit Awards, and performs two tracks from her new album Rebel Heart. **10.20** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.40** **Film: Mercury Rising.** (1998) An FBI agent shields an autistic child from government assassins after the boy cracks a supposedly unbreakable top-secret code. Comedy, starring Bruce Willis. **12.40** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **(R 3.40)** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Grid. **7.00** Cycling: Revolution Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R 9.30)** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R 10.00)** Frasier. **(R 11.00)** Frasier. **(R 11.30)** The Big Bang Theory. **(R 12.00)** The Big Bang Theory. **(R 12.30)** The Big Bang Theory. **(R 1.00)** Rude (ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Utteter, Kempton Park and Lingfield Park. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R 4.45)** Come Dine with Me. **(R 5.15)** Come Dine with Me. **(R 5.45)** Come Dine with Me. **(R)** **6.15** **The Simpsons.** When Miss Hoover asks her students to research their family history, Lisa is distressed to discover that most of her forebears seem to have been crooks and deadbeats. **(R)** **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.05** **The Restoration Man.** George Clarke revisits Nik Huddy and Vanessa Ford Robbins, who set out to transform a Victorian gate lodge in Surrey, but found they needed an extension to live there comfortably. **(R)** **8.00** **The World's Weirdest Weather.** The mystery of red rain falling in Sri Lanka and India, how unusual weather is making Florida the sinkhole capital of the world, and strange lights in the sky that are baffling locals in a remote Norwegian town. Plus, ready-made snowballs in Alaska, giant spiders covering trees in Pakistan, shard of ice sprouting from the ground in someone's back garden, and an underwater cloud in Mexico. **9.00** **Film: Bridesmaids.** (2011) A disgraced woman is asked to be maid of honour at her best friend's wedding. Taking charge of the pre-nuptial bridal celebrations, she resolves to give her pal and accompanying bridesmaids the time of their lives, but as her efforts slide into chaos she finds the wife of the groom's boss is keen to usurp her position. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig. **11.30** **Film: True Lies.** (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **2.00** The Million Pound Drop. **(R 2.55)** Hollyoaks. **(R 5.05)** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **(R 5.20)** Location, Location, Location. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.25** SpongeBob SquarePants. **11.00** Film: Open Season 2. (2008) **11.10** Film: Hitch. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Will Smith and Eva Mendes. **2.45** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. **(R 3.45)** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. **(R 4.40)** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. **(R 5.40)** The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door. **(R 6.30)** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Repossession experts Mike Allonby and Terry Jones roam the streets, looking for cars belonging to people with outstanding unpaid loans. **(R)** **7.20** **Police Interceptors.** Hayley rushes to help two badly injured motorcyclists, while Ross and John haul in a drink-driver who has left a trail of destruction in his wake. Duncan has to escort a 176-wheel monster truck through Worthington, Steve deals with a boy racer, Tom goes undercover on the trail of some suspected bike thieves, and Duggie plays gooseberry on a couple's first date. **(R)** **8.15** **5 News Weekend.** **8.20** **NCIS.** A navy recruitment officer is murdered at a high school and the agents discover he had recently begun a relationship with a married teacher whose wife held a grudge against him. They also find out a student's father was vehemently opposed to his joining the military, and receive help from an unexpected quarter – Ducky's esteemed predecessor, Dr Magnus. **(R)** **9.15** **NCIS.** An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a marine and martial arts expert – is the killer. **11.00** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The investigation of a man stabbed to death in an alley leads the team into a fetish scene in which people dress up as dolls in custom-made rubber suits. **11.05** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The death of a marine who became pregnant by a rapist brings the unit into conflict with the Pentagon, and the case brings back painful memories of Benson's own sexual assault. **(R)** **12.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Costa Del Casualty: Bendimorf ER. **(R 4.00)** The Boy They Call Fish: Extraordinary People. **(R 4.50)** Make It Big. **(R 5.15)** Angels of Jarm. **(R 5.40)** Roary the Racing Car. **(R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Film: Real Steel (2011) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **12.55** Uncle 1.25 Bluestone 42 **1.55** Russell Howard's Good News **2.55** Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **3.25** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **BBC Four**
7.00 The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Hostages **10.55** The Joy of the Bee Gees **11.55** Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond **12.55** Charlie Brooker's Weekly View Extra **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.00** The Secret Life of Elephants **3.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **4.00** Close **ITV2**
11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** Catchphrase **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.50** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **3.40** Mr Bean **4.45** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.50** Film: Twins (1998) **9.00** Film: Rush Hour (1998) **11.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.25** Reality Bites **12.10** Ibiza Weekend **1.10** Crazy Beaches **1.35** Hell's Kitchen **2.20** Fake Relations **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Newscreen **ITV3**
11.45 Jane Eyre **2.00** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.05** Inspector Morse **12.25** A Touch of Frost **2.15** ITV3 Newscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.45 Counting Cars **12.45** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **3.40** Storage Wars: Texas **4.10** Storage Wars **5.10** Film: The Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **7.00** Live FIA Formula 1 Championship. The Miami ePrix. **9.30** Cricket World Cup Highlights **10.30** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **12.30** Film: South Park Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999) **2.10** Hogan's Heroes **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Newscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.35 Marry Me **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** Baby Daddy **2.55** Film: Step Up (2006) **5.00** Troy **5.55** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Troy **2.15** The Inbetweeners **4.00** Taking New York **4.55** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Guadalcanal Diary (1943) **1.00** The Rocker (2008) **3.05** The First Wives Club (1996) **5.10** Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) **7.15** Juniper (2008) **8.00** Chronicle (2012) **10.40** Watchmen (2009) **1.50** Dark Star (1974) **3.35** Close

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CHOICE



Mr Selfridge (ITV, 9pm)
Harry is thrown when Nancy suddenly announces they should keep their relationship professional, at least until the Selfridge Estate is finished. A grieving Mr Grove is keen to carry on as normal, but continues to shun Miss Mardie, while Grace and Gordon have an embarrassing encounter with Mr Crabb. Victor and Elsa come up with a new idea for Colleano's, Violette catches the eye of a visiting French count, and a huge 'Britain at Play' promotion is launched in the store to keep the shareholders happy. Drama based on the life of Harry Gordon Selfridge, starring Jeremy Piven, Zoe Wanamaker, Amanda Abbington, Tom Goodman-Hill, Kara Tointon and Amy Beth Hayes.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Formula 1 – Australian Grand Prix Highlights. **2.40** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Italy v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.55** The Big Painting Challenge.

6.50 **Countryfile**. The show comes from Northern Ireland, where Matt Baker finds out about the hares that have made their home at Belfast International Airport and helps out at RSPB reserve Portmonee Lough, the first in the country to offer a year-long residential volunteer programme.

7.45 **The Voice UK**. The knockout rounds come to an end and the line-up for the live shows is revealed as coaches Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson finally settle on the three acts they are each taking through to the quarter-finals. Presented by Emma Willis and Marvin Humes.

9.00 **Poldark**. Period drama set in late 18th-century Cornwall, based on the novels by Winston Graham. The closure of the local tin mine leaves hundreds out of work and desperately poor, so Ross considers reopening his family mine with a view to bringing prosperity back to the area. He takes time out to accompany his cousin Verity to a ball, where she falls in love with Captain Blamey – a man who turns out to be hiding a dark secret – and Ross causes a stir by getting intimate with the now-married Elizabeth.

10.00 **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea v Southampton and Everton v Newcastle United.

11.40 **Comic Relief – The Best Bits**. A selection of clips from Friday's entertainment extravaganza from London Palladium, where celebrities including Lenny Henry and John Bishop performed to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa. (R)

12.40 **The Apprentice USA**. **2.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Football League Show. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** **Countryfile**. (R) **9.00** Six Nations Rewind. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** A Taste of Britain. **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** **Film**: Merrill's Marauders. (1962) Adventure, starring Jeff Chandler. **2.05** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. (R) **2.35** Three Up, Two Down. (R) **3.05** Hi-de-Hi! (R) **3.35** Flog It! **4.35** Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World. (R) **5.35** Supercars vs Used Cars: The Trade Off. (R)

6.35 **Pompidou**. The penniless aristocrat realises a bowl he gave to a friend for Christmas is now worth £1million, and he and Hove hatch a plan to try to reclaim it. Jane Asher guest stars.

7.00 **Comic Relief – The Best Bits**. Highlights from Friday's extravaganza to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa, including a Little Britain special featuring David Walliams and Stephen Hawking.

8.00 **Top Gear**. The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, Richard Hammond compares Subaru's WRX STI with VW's Golf R.

9.00 **Dragons' Den**. Duncan Bannatyne bids farewell after more than 10 years on the show, and fellow Dragons Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney are also stepping down. Their final chance to invest in new ideas sees two young entrepreneurs pitching a bespoke suit-tailoring business, and a registered nurse trying to gain investment for her life-saving product. An eco-friendly skip on wheels causes confusion in the ranks, while edible insects give some of the panellists the creeps.

10.05 **Bluestone 42**. New series. The members of the unit find themselves trapped in hostile territory, while Bird has to step up as leader.

10.35 **The Revolution Will Be Televised**. Part two of The German embassy receives a visit from the London congestion charge collection team and James and Barnaby go on a fact-finding mission to the EU.

11.05 **Film: Burke & Hare**. (2010) Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg, Andy Serkis and Tom Wilkinson.

12.30 **Film: Lone Star**. (1996) **2.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV**: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled! Hulk and the Agents of Sniash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** **ITV News**: Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** River Monsters. (R) **2.40** Tipping Point. (R) **3.40** **Film**: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.10 **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.20** **ITV News**: Weather. **6.30** **The Chase: Celebrity Special**. Radio 2 presenter Ken Bruce, former England midfielder Paul Ince, EastEnders actress Laila Morse (Mo Harris) and boxer David Haye compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. (R)

7.30 **Off Their Rockers**. Mo embraces modern fashion, Tony reveals a saucy secret and Royston shares his strange inventions, as the irreverent hidden-camera show continues.

8.00 **All Star Family Fortunes**. Sunderland defender Wes Brown and actress Jill Halfpenny team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge**. Harry is thrown when Nancy announces they should keep their relationship professional. Mr Grove continues to shun Miss Mardie, and Violette catches the eye of a French count.

10.00 **ITV News**: Weather. **10.15** **Bear Grylls: Mission Survive**. Arriving at a cave system, the contestants use their rope skills to navigate the tight spaces and waterfall descents in search of their dinner, a pig carcass that Bear has hidden. (R)

11.15 **Live Cup Rugby Union**. **12.10** The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** **ITV News**: Rightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** **Film**: Step Up 4: Miami Heat. (2012) Premiere. Dance drama sequel, starring Kathryn McCormick. **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Channel 4 News.

6.05 **A Place in the Sun: Home or Away**. Property experts meet a couple of fitness fanatics who cannot decide between buying a property on southern Spain's Costa Tropical or opting for a bigger house in the Cotswolds.

7.00 **Four Rooms**. Dealers Gordon Watson, Celia Sawyer, Alex Proud and David Sonnenhath battle it out over a lock of Napoleon's hair, recycled haute couture worn by buresque star Dita Von Teese and an erotic silver chess set.

8.00 **Great Canal Journeys**. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a watery adventure, starting in the romantic city of Oxford, where they began their courtship many years ago. They follow the gentle contours of the Oxford Canal through the Chertwell Valley, where they meet novelist Philip Pullman and are joined by their son, fellow actor Samuel West.

9.00 **Indian Summers**. Cynthia is left reeling when Eugene makes a revelation about his family's finances, while Sarah uses her knowledge of Alice's secret past to blackmail her friend.

10.00 **Britain's Racist Election**. Recalling how a political campaign took a street to the brink of racial segregation in 1964, when maverick Conservative Peter Griffiths won the West Midlands seat of Smethwick.

11.05 **Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse**. (2010) Bella Swan's supernatural love triangle threatens to ignite a conflict between vampires and werewolves. Romantic fantasy sequel, starring Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** River Cottage Veg Heroes. (R) **4.55** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bits. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Only the Little White Van. **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Mio Mao. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.25** Zack and Quack. **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. **9.30** Dora and Friends. **10.00** Spongesob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.45** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.15** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.15** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.15** **Film**: Lost in Space. (1998) Sci-fi adventure, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman. **3.50** **Film**: Surf's Up. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. **5.25** **Film**: A Bug's Life. (1998) Pixar animation, with the voices of Dave Foley and Kevin Spacey.

7.10 **5 News Weekend**.

7.15 **Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider**. (2001) The gun-toting treasure seeker is thrown into a furious battle with a mysterious secret society as she races against time to locate the missing pieces of a legendary artefact that grants the owner the ability to control time. Action adventure based on the video games, starring Angelina Jolie, Daniel Craig, Leslie Phillips, Iain Glen, Chris Barrie and Jon Voight. Edited for daytime broadcast.

9.00 **Film: Killer Elite**. (2011) A former secret agent comes out of retirement when his mentor is captured by an Arab leader. The hostage will be freed if the ex-spy kills three fellow operatives in punishment for murders they committed. However, a shadowy society of assassins intends to protect his targets and keep their past crimes a secret. Action thriller, with Jason Statham, Clive Owen and Robert De Niro.

11.20 **Film: Revolver**. (2005) A gambler is helped by two enigmatic loan sharks to exact revenge on his deranged former boss for landing him in jail. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham and Ray Liotta.

1.35 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Filming My Father: In Life and Death. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.25** **Film**: Race to Witch Mountain (2009) **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Bluestone 42 **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.35** Live at the Apollo **2.05** Stop Cutting Our Girls: A Comic Relief Special

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **7.40** London to Brighton in Four Minutes: Side By Side **7.45** Secret Knowledge: Bolsover Castle with Lucy Worsley **8.15** The Polio Story: The Vaccine That Changed the World **9.00** Nina Conti Clowning Around **10.00** **Film**: Untouchable (2011) **11.45** The Irish Rock Story: A Tale of Two Cities **12.45** Darcy Russell's Looking for Audrey **1.45** Narnia's Lost Poet: The Secret Lives and Loves of CS Lewis

ITV2

12.05 Take Me Out **1.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.40** Scorpion **2.30** **Film**: Freaky Friday (2003) **4.35** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **5.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.55** **Film**: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.30** **Film**: The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30** **Film**: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997) **12.20** Mom **1.15** Crazy Beaches **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

ITV3

11.10 A Touch of Frost **1.20** Wycliffe **2.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **4.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.40** Inspector Morse **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.30** **Film**: The Elephant Man (1980) **1.55** Perspectives: David Walliams: The Genius of Dahl **2.45** Judge Judy **3.25** **ITV3** Nightscreen

ITV4

12.40 Hogan's Heroes **1.45** Pawn Stars **3.35** Storage Wars: Texas **4.05** Storage Wars **5.00** The Big Fish Off **6.05** **Film**: Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **8.00** Uv-a Cup Rugby Union **9.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00** **Film**: Runaway Train (1985)

E4

12.30 Revenge **1.30** The 100 **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** **Film**: Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Troy **10.00** Rude Tube **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Tattoos After Dark **12.35** How I Met Your Mother **1.35** Rules of Engagement **2.25** The Mindy Project

Film4

11.00 Winchester '73 (1950) **1.00** New in Town (2009) **2.50** Time Bandits (1981) **5.10** Five Children and It (2004) **7.00** The Phantom (1999) **9.00** Battleship (2012) **11.35** I Think I Love My Wife (2007) **1.25** Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter – and Spring (2003)

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24 FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Outbreak, Channel 5, 10.50pm

An expert in infectious diseases races against time to find a cure for a rapidly fatal airborne virus which is wiping out the population of a small town, and is threatening to turn into a pandemic. However, his task is hampered by senior military men, who are bent on burning down the town and incinerating the virus with it, regardless of any casualties. Thriller, with Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman, Kevin Spacey and Donald Sutherland. (1995)

TUESDAY

Carry On Up the Jungle, ITV, 11.40pm

A Victorian explorer recalls how he was recruited by an aristocrat to find her missing son in the African jungle. Teaming up with a fearless hunter, he hoped to find a rare bird on his journey - but instead fell into the clutches of an all-female tribe. Comedy, starring Sid James, Frankie Howerd, Joan Sims, Kenneth Connor, Charles Hawtrey and Terry Scott. (1970)



Outbreak, Monday, Channel 5, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY

Hollywood Homicide, BBC1, 11.15pm

Two cops are put to the test by the baffling case of a rapper murdered on stage, but they are more concerned with escaping the daily grind of catching crooks than the machinations of the music industry. While one moonlights unsuccessfully as an estate agent, the other sees this high-profile case as a chance to fulfil his dream of becoming an actor. Action comedy, starring Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett. (2003)

THURSDAY

Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson and Mary McCormack. (2013)

FRIDAY

Passchendaele, BBC2, 11.35pm

A Canadian soldier is injured in battle during the First World War, and falls for a nurse in the hospital. Declared unfit for duty due to ill health, he is reassigned to a recruitment station - but he tricks his way back to the front line to protect the brother of the woman he loves. Drama, starring Paul Gross. (2008)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Looking back at 30 years of a TV classic

No Australian soap has been as indelible as Neighbours on British culture.

From those early lunchtime screenings on BBC1, the saga of Ramsay Street folk has touched a chord with millions.

It helped make recording stars of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan; was a training ground for Hollywood talent such as Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Margot Robbie and Alan Dale, while characters such as Karl and Susan Kennedy have become household names.

In Neighbours 30th: The Stars Reunite (Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm), Kylie, Guy, Margot, Jason and Della Goodrem reflect on their time in the show.

Stefan Dennis (Paul Robinson) and Tim Phillips (Daniel Robinson) introduce proceedings, and welcome Ian Smith and Anne Charleston (Harold and Madge Bishop), Mark Little (Joe Mangel) and Craig McLachlan (Henry Ramsay).

Paul Robinson, arguably the greatest soap villain since JR, has been a dream role for Stefan Dennis.

"He's a great part," enthuses the seasoned thespian. "People say to me, 'What's your favourite storyline that you've ever done on Neighbours?' That's one of the hardest questions for me, partly because of the amount of years I've been on the show, and because my character and my storylines are so diversified, I can never answer that question."

Stefan appeared in that first episode 30 years ago, had a dozen years off, and then returned to Ramsay Street. A decade later he's still going strong.

"I came back for two weeks as a guest star. It was, as they say, 'an offer too good to refuse.' It is funny because I'll mention (on set), 'That storyline I did a couple of years ago', and one of the cast members will say, 'That was six years ago.'"

Stefan might be happy to talk about the show which made his name, but Jason Donovan is more reluctant to reflect on the era when Scott and Charlene's wedding won the hearts of millions.

"There's a whole bunch of fans that have an emotional connection with that. It's a long time ago. I certainly

understand how there's a big affection for it..."

Alan Fletcher is far happier chatting about his roles in the beloved soap. That's right, he's played someone other than ace doctor Karl Kennedy.

"It was the late Eighties and I played a character called Greg Cooper, who was a mechanic. I played him for three weeks," he recalls.

"They asked me to come back and do a year on Neighbours, but I declined because I was busy working in the theatre. Mercifully they didn't forget about me and I went back to work for them seven years later."

Alan returned to the show as Karl in 1994, but didn't have a clue that the role would dominate his life.

"I had no concept of the show lasting that long," he remarks. "Also, as a working actor, you never really like to think about how long a cult's going to go. I signed a one-year contract and I thought, 'A year on Neighbours. That'll be really cool. Then they extended it by another year. I thought, 'Great. Another year. Terrific. And then I blinked,' he laughs.



Neighbours 30th: The Stars Reunite, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Britain's Benefit Tenants

Channel 4, 9pm

Due to falling numbers of council housing tenants, more and more people are renting privately, and many do so via housing benefit. Private landlords often use specialist letting agencies who are skilled in making the most from this particular marketplace, one of whom is the focus of this documentary. It follows agent Andrew Dyke, from Goldthorpe in South Yorkshire, who manages almost 1,000 clients, and who has achieved success due to his personal, hands-on approach. This week, that method even extends to him kicking in the door of one of his buildings, which has been hastily abandoned by the tenant. After gaining entry, he's surprised to find what looks like a cannabis factory. No wonder the occupant left in a hurry...

TUESDAY

Ordinary Lies

BBC1, 9pm

New series. Ensemble drama following the workers at a car showroom, revealing what happens when moments of desperation lead some of them into telling big lies - spur-of-the-moment deceptions that quickly spiral out of control. The first episode focuses on salesman

Marty, played by Jason Manford, who is on his final warning for being late - so when he sleeps through his alarm after a heavy night of drinking, he panics and comes up with a drastic excuse. His colleagues are all sympathetic - but now he has to live with the lie that his wife is dead. Max Beesley, Jo Joyner, Mackenzie Crook and Michelle Keegan co-star.

Life After Suicide

BBC1, 10.45pm

The leading cause of death in men below 50 is suicide, yet people still seem reluctant to talk about it. Birkenhead woman Angela Samata, whose partner Mark took his own life 11 years ago, meets others who have suffered a similar loss, asking why some people choose to take their own lives and whether those left behind can ever come to terms with their bereavement. Those she meets include Downton Abbey actor David Robb, talking about the death of his actress wife Briony McRoberts in 2013, and a Norfolk woman who is living with the suicides of both her husband and son.



Ordinary Lies, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

Stargazing Live

BBC2, 8pm

New series. Professor Brian Cox and Dara O Briain return to Jodrell Bank Observatory as they look ahead to Friday's total solar eclipse - one of the biggest astronomical events of the decade. They are also joined by Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, while Brian makes his own attempt to land a lunar module at Nasa and Dara finds out what happened to the rocks brought back from the moon. Dr Lucie Green gives advice on how to get the most from moon-gazing and Dallas Campbell gets to grips with robots that could revolutionise space exploration.

THURSDAY

The Truth About Sugar

BBC1, 9pm

New series. In the first of four documentaries focusing on health matters, Fiona Phillips

investigates what sugar does to the body, finds out why some people have more of a sweet tooth than others and how sugar is added to many supermarket favourites believed to be purely savoury. She is also joined by four volunteers whose sugar-heavy diets could be putting their health at risk. Together they come up with ways to beat their sweet cravings and reduce their intake - but will it make a noticeable difference?

FRIDAY

Alan Carr: Chatty Man

Channel 4, 10pm

The chat show these days is less about great quotes and more about those jaw-dropping moments that go viral. While Graham Norton may be the king of the genre, with James McAvoy and Mark Ruffalo on unicycles and that Will Smith dance routine (31 million hits and rising), Alan Carr has given him a run for his money. The Tom Hiddleston dance scene from a couple of years ago is well worth tracking down if you haven't already. Now the NTA-winning host is back for a new run with The Voice coaches Rita Ora, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Tom Jones; Hollywood heartthrob Antonio Banderas; EastEnders' Danny Dyer, and providing the music is X Factor runner-up Ella Henderson. She'll be performing her new single, Mirror Man.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

22	4	9	10	25	4	23	4	8	4	I	13	18
13		5		4		23				M	4	
4		11	7	5	24	25	13	23		12		23
9	16	15			4				17	24	6	24
17		12		1	4	7	20		23			14
	14	16	5	19		18		10	21	13	7	13
				6		4	12					
24	15	24	26	13		21		24	4	5	16	
2		22		15	24	10	14		11		14	
10	17	24	9					10	12	24		
19	6			13	23	13	9	24	7	14	5	
5		13		15		24			23	18		
2	24	7	3	11	13	14	10		18	13	22	16

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	Y	P	G	O	V	N	M	D	I	W	Z	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	K	L	Q	A	R	C	E	U	B	H	F	X

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Instruct the others all round in self-control (9)
- 8. The bearing of one who succeeds, we hear (3)
- 9. This could surely be used for a spell (11)
- 11. Performer disturbed by air-test (7)
- 12. Dispatches mail for appointments (5)
- 13. It's used for painting the sails of a ship (6)
- 15. To promote, choose one before others (6)
- 17. Nautical cry coming from a street around Virginia (5)
- 18. This may show high temperature when suicides are affected (7)
- 20. Coach charges (7,4)
- 22. Sounds like the second person to provide farm stock (3)
- 23. African trumpeters? (9)

Down

- 2. Someone's age revealed inside (3)
- 3. Makes a call for some jewellery (5)
- 4. More than one reflection is written about poor game (6)
- 5. The excursionist is a dancer (7)
- 6. When they run out the eggs should be cooked! (5,2,4)
- 7. Rates revised about certain valuable items (9)
- 10. A shrub bed with a single flower (11)
- 11. Gabriel located in northern Russia (9)
- 14. The position of the rider making a pace (7)
- 16. Scoring implement needed for the clerk (6)
- 19. Part of a meal unchanged (5)
- 21. What to do with seventy-five per cent of the flesh! (3)

1	2			3	4		5		6		7
									8		
9			10								
11								12			
13				14			15				
							16				
17							18		19		
		20								21	
22											
				23							

Quick Clues:

Across

- 7. Overcome (9)
- 8. Tenanted (3)
- 9. Tempest warning (5-6)
- 11. Constructor (7)
- 12. Pour fat over (5)
- 13. Folly (6)
- 15. Tranquillity (6)
- 17. Rogue (5)
- 18. Lover of country (7)
- 20. Cut off (11)
- 22. Plant (3)
- 23. Esteemed (9)

Down

- 2. Deserter (3)
- 3. Shy (5)
- 4. Bird-house (6)
- 5. Elevate (7)
- 6. Conjuror (11)
- 7. Assertion (9)
- 10. Inventiveness (11)
- 11. Liveliness (9)
- 14. Maker (7)
- 16. Athletics (6)
- 19. Topic (5)
- 21. Before (3)

Sudoku

		8		3	5			6
			9		4	5		
5						9	8	
	4			2	3	8		
	8		4		1			5
		5	8	9				2
	5	9						
		4	1		2		9	
1			7	4				8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	4	7	5	9	3	8	1
8	1	7	6	3	4	2	9	5
5	9	3	1	2	8	6	7	4
6	3	2	4	7	5	8	1	9
9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6	3
1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4	2
4	2	6	5	1	7	9	3	8
3	5	9	8	4	6	1	2	7
7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Uneven; 8 Polish; 10 Dilates; 11 Towel; 12 Owns; 13 Bared; 17 Utter; 18 Sty; 22 Drawl; 23 Ageless; 24 Packet; 25 Sphere. Down: 1 Outdoor; 2 Healing; 3 Testy; 4 Sorties; 5 Views; 6 Shale; 9 Estate car; 14 Atelier; 15 Steeped; 16 Leashed; 19 Adopt; 20 March; 21 Heaps. QUICK - Across: 7 Exotic; 8 Crease; 10 Replete; 11 Fling; 12 Site; 13 Peace; 17 Trite; 18 Tear; 22 Rouse; 23 Various; 24 Fellow; 25 Screen. Down: 1 Repris; 2 Compete; 3 Sine; 4 Preface; 5 Rapid; 6 Verger; 9 Defective; 14 Freedom; 15 Devotee; 16 Present; 19 Gruff; 20 Bully; 21 Price.

Quiz

- 1. Who added the King's to King's Lynn?
- 2. Which popular author was born James Alfred Wight?
- 3. In which county is Stansted Airport?
- 4. Which philosopher asserted 'I think, therefore I am'?
- 5. What relation are Clement and Lucian to Sigmund Freud?
- 6. For which flower is heartsease another name?
- 7. How is diamorphine better known?
- 8. Who plays Harry Potter in the movie versions of JK Rowling's books?
- 9. For which fictional hero did Alexander Selkirk provide the model?
- 10. Which Italian team did Robbie Keane leave to join Leeds United?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Paraffin; 2 Master of the Rolls; 3 Sydney; 4 Parkinson's disease; 5 Ku Klux Klan; 6 Oleander; 7 Buddhism; 8 Greece and Albania; 9 Aldous Huxley; 10 Berlin Philharmonic. Niner: BROACHING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

549 gives a fish,
7126 gives a second fish,
883 gives a third fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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Well-presented home offers great potential

WELL presented yet requiring some updating in parts, this three-bedroomed semi in Parkview Crescent, Walsall, is for sale through L&S Prestige at £124,995.

The home is generally well presented and offers great potential. With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a hall, lounge with walk through access to a dining area, kitchen and WC to the ground floor, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

A block paved driveway to the front and side leads to a detached garage situated alongside the rear garden. Call 01902 606595 or visit www.prestige-estatesuk.com



Victorian residence in a highly regarded area



A SUPERBLY modernised and improved detached Victorian gentleman's residence in a highly regarded area in Belvidere Road, Walsall is ideally positioned for commuting.

This sensitively restored property lies in a highly regarded residential area within the Highgate Conservation Area. It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £375,000.

Incorporating a wealth of original features and having stained wood joinery, the gas centrally heated, fully double glazed accommodation comprises an entrance hall, lounge, conservatory, sitting room, guest cloakroom with WC, a farmhouse-style dining/kitchen, three double bedrooms, a Victorian-style bathroom, wash room with WC outside and a two car garage, utility area, workshop area and mature gardens. Call 01922 621411 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



Modern detached has £244,950 tag

THIS modern detached house in Lindrick Close, Bloxwich is for sale through Marrior & Co at £244,950.

It has gas central heating and double glazing, with a porch, entrance hall, lounge and dining room, kitchen with built-in oven electric double oven, fridge and under-stairs storage cupboard and utility room.

It has a WC, master bedroom with wardrobes with mirrored sliding doors and modern re-fitted en suite shower room, three further bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes, a bathroom, single garage with electric remote controlled door and rear garden with patio seating area and mature lawn.

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OnTheMarket

Three-bed semi lies in a popular residential area

THIS semi-detached home in Walsall lies in a popular residential area and is for sale through Dixons Estate Agents at £125,000.

The three-bed home in Lindon Road has a front driveway and a garage, a lounge with laminate flooring and sliding doors to the garden.

The property also comprises a kitchen with light wood units and contrasting grey working surfaces, space for a cooker and hob and space for white goods and an under stairs cupboard.

There is also a bathroom with a modern white suite, partly tiled walls and a separate WC.

For further information, or to arrange a viewing, contact Dixons Estate Agents on 01922 430924 or visit www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk





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Crankhall Lane West Bromwich



Offers around £64,995

A very well presented one bedroom ground floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and electric central heating. Ideal for landlord as the property is currently rented out for £425pcm. The property further comprises, reception hall, spacious open plan lounge/modern kitchen with integrated appliances, double bedroom with built in wardrobe, luxury shower room and allocated parking. Energy rating D.

Flash Road Wednesbury



Offers around £64,995

A spacious one bedroom second floor apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and electric central heating. Ideal for investor/landlord the property is currently has a tenant paying £425pcm. The accommodation is light and airy and benefits from a living room with French doors to a Juliet balcony, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and allocated parking space. EPC rating B.

Tasker Street Walsall



Offers around £132,500

A superb brand new two bedroom end of terrace family home currently still under construction in the brand new 'Tannery Court' development in Walsall town centre. Built by Lion Homes and having the benefit of NHBC guarantee, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, guest W.C., lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking.

Rosehill Willenhall



Offers around £82,500

An improved and upgraded two bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for landlord or first time buyer this lovely property further comprises, lounge, dining room, cellar, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with shower and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Woodruff Way Walsall



Offers around £144,950

A superb three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of no upward chain, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Improved and upgraded the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms (en-suite shower room to master), family bathroom, rear garden, garage and off road parking for two vehicles to the front. Energy rating D.

Wayford Glade Willenhall



Offers around £99,995

A three bedroom semi detached family home in a quiet cul-de-sac location having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord this lovely property further comprises, reception hall, through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, detached garage and off road parking to front. Energy rating D.

Victoria Avenue Bloxwich



Offers around £91,500

A three bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, guest W.C., three bedrooms, family shower room and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

Thorpe Road Walsall



Offers around £95,000

A middle terrace family home having the benefit of planning permission for a single storey rear extension, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Station Road Rushall



Offers around £89,995

A well presented and much improved spacious three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Whilst offering great value for money this lovely property has a good sized through living room with featured Cast Iron Spiral staircase and wood burning log fire, fitted kitchen, three double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Albion Street Oldbury



Offers around £140,000

Refurbished, improved and upgraded 3/4 bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, garage conversion (currently used as beauty room), guest W.C., three bedrooms, attic room (bedroom 4) family bathroom, separate W.C., rear garden and off road parking to the front for several vehicles. Energy rating C.

All Saints Road Wednesbury



Offers around £75,000

●●OPEN TOO OFFERS AND MUST BE SOLD●● A good sized middle terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

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Thorne Street Wolverhampton



Offers around £90,000

A three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, dining room, spacious open plan lounge/kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Great Bridge Road Bilston



Offers around £89,995

A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of Majority UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, kitchen downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, extension to rear (workshop) and front and rear gardens. Energy rating E.

Lincoln Road Walsall



Offers around £95,000

A very well presented two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, spacious open plan lounge/diner, fitted breakfast kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, good size family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating E.

71 Wolverhampton Street Walsall



Offers around £128,000

A luxury second floor two bedroom apartment adjoining a former Victorian mill, built in 2008, with the M6 motorway approximately one mile away and Walsall town centre a short walk away. The property boasts a designer kitchen area with integrated appliances, living room with balcony, luxury appointed bathroom, video entry phone, 2 bedrooms and ensuite shower room, lift within the block and allocated parking. Current energy rating C.

Castlefort Road Walsall Wood



Offers around £145,000

Located within Walsall Wood is this well presented three bedroom terraced house. The property benefits from a reception room, modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room, ground floor cloakroom, modern bathroom, double glazed windows, gas central heating, own drive with parking for two cars, front and rear gardens, energy rating D.

Wharfedale Street Wednesbury



Offers around £125,000

A well presented good size 3/4 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms, attic room (used as bedroom four) and rear garden with outbuilding. Energy rating D.

Hilton Road Lanesfield



Offers around £109,995

●●●REDUCED FROM £130,000 AND SIMPLY MUST BE VIEWED●● Refurbished, improved and upgraded with tens of thousands of pounds spent improving the property this superb three bedroom family home has the benefit of no upward chain, NEW UPVC double glazing, NEW central heating system, NEW floor coverings and decoration. This ideal family home further comprises reception hall, spacious open plan lounge/diner/re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom with shower and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.



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Ombudsman
SALES



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Ombudsman
LETTINGS

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Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner



Swynnerton Drive
Essington

This immaculately presented and deceptively spacious modern detached family home occupies an attractive plot within easy walking distance of local schools and all usual local amenities. Being most worthy of early inspection the gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Entrance Hall/Stairs,



Front through Lounge/Dining Room, Conservatory, Fabulous Fitted Kitchen, Guests Cloaks/WC, Four Excellent Bedrooms, Bedroom Two having an En-suite Shower Cubicle, Family Bathroom/WC, Larger Than Average Integral Garage, Crete Print Driveway and Pleasant Rear Garden NO ONWARD CHAIN

£279,950



Essington Road, New Invention
Willenhall

- First floor flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Spacious Lounge
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Shower Room/WC
- Parking and gardens

£65,000



Cecil Street, The Butts
Walsall

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing, Electric Heating
- Spacious Lounge
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room/WC
- Allocated Parking
- Easy Access to Amenities

£74,950



Church Street
Bloxwich

- Victorian mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Neat rear garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Bathroom/WC

£77,950



Mackay Road
Bloxwich

- End terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/diner, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Neat gardens
- Bathroom/WC
- No Onward Chain

£92,950



Chantry Avenue
Bloxwich

- Semi-Detached house
- Gas centrally heated a PVCu double glazed,
- Front lounge
- rear kitchen,
- Guest W.C.
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Rear Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£100,000



Hardy Road, Goscote
Walsall

- Mid-Terraced Family Home
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- 3 bedrooms,
- Driveway and gardens
- Shower Room/WC
- Kitchen

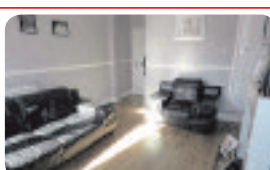
£105,000



Coltham Road
Willenhall

An immaculately presented charming Victorian style mid terrace house is offered for sale, and briefly comprises the following accommodation:- Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Family Bathroom/WC, 2 Main Bedrooms together with Loft Room

Offers In Excess Of £100,000



3. Enclosed Rear Garden together with Allocated Parking Space. This much improved and well presented Victorian style mid terrace house was constructed to good quality specifications of its day. An early internal inspection is therefore highly recommended.



Nightingale Crescent, Coppice Farm
Willenhall

Situated on a secluded yet popular location, this well presented four bedroom detached house is offered for sale, having the benefit of gas central heating and PVCu double glazing (where specified) and briefly comprising: Two Reception Rooms,



Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Guests Cloaks/WC, Sun Room, Landing, Four Bedrooms, The Master having an En-suite Shower Room/WC, Family Bathroom/WC, Driveway Parking and Gardens

£249,950



Coneygree Road
Tipton

- Semi detached house
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, extended kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, parking, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Cash Offers Only
- Ideal Investment

£110,000



Lichfield Road
Willenhall

- Detached coach house
- Heated and glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage (currently converted to third bedroom/ play room)
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed
- Parking, Gardens

£110,000



Virola Court, Park Road
Bloxwich

- Ground Floor Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- Master with En-suite
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen/Diner
- PVCu Double glazing
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Secure Parking
- No Onward Chain

£114,950



Dartmouth Avenue
Walsall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Majority double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, wet room/WC
- Good sized gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Ideal Investment

£115,000



Heather Road, Dudley Fields
Bloxwich

- Well Presented Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms, Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Large Rear Garden
- No onward Chain

£115,000



Roche Way, Mossley
Bloxwich

- A very well presented Semi-Detached
- Gas Central Heated
- PVCu Double Glazed
- Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs/WC
- 4 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garage

£124,950



Ludlow Lane, Reedswood Park
Walsall

- An attractive end town house
- Gas centrally heated, PVCu double glazed
- Lounge
- dining kitchen
- conservatory
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Ample parking a gardens

£125,000



Instow Close, Coppice Farm
Willenhall

- Well presented starter home
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Driveway and gardens
- Bathroom/WC
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£125,500



Harden Road
Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking and Gardens
- Viewing Essential

£174,950



Hill Street
Essington

- Modern Mid Townhouse
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Through lounge
- Kitchen/Utility
- Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms
- Access to motorway

£134,950



Millfield Avenue, Lower Farm
Bloxwich

- Refurbished detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated a PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/dining room, conservatory
- Re-fitted kitchen, utility a pantry
- 3 bedrooms
- 'Jack a Jill' bathroom
- Garage
- ample driveway

£235,000



Vernon Close
Essington

- Detached dormer house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, conservatory
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway
- Garage
- Gardens

£269,950



High Hill
Essington

- Detached dormer house
- PVCu double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Large driveway, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

£369,950

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Walsall
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Bilston
01902 505974

Linnet Grove
Willenhall




CALL PAUL DUBBERLEY ON 01902 633323 for this Stunning detached 5 bedroom family house on the popular Coppice Farm estate, entrance porch and hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, family kitchen, conservatory, en-suite to main bedroom having a range of fitted bedroom furniture, main bathroom, garage and driveway, rear garden, central heating and double glazing. EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £260,000

Scholars Walk
Walsall



This MODERN SEMI DETACHED HOUSE offers neatly arranged accommodation situated within a cul-de-sac location. The property features a master bedroom with en-suite shower area, two further bedrooms, lounge, breakfast kitchen, conservatory & first floor family bathroom. Externally, there is allocated parking for 2 vehicles & a rear garden. Viewing essential.

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

Alamein Road
Willenhall



2 Bedroom semi detached bungalow with no upward chain, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and garden, call Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 to view.

EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £89,950

Old Birchills
Walsall




WELL APPOINTED BRAND NEW HOME - RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED & AVAILABLE TO VIEW NOW. Three bedroom semi detached property, first floor bathroom with white suite, fitted kitchen & ground floor guest WC. Early inspection advised.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Lawnside Green
Bilston



Modernised 3 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, driveway, entrance hall, wc, modern kitchen, lounge, dining room, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950

Burford Close
Walsall



br>Double Fronted Semi Detached residence in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. Spacious accommodation briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom & Separate WC, Front and Rear Gardens. Call 01902 241100 No Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £104,950

Lichfield Road
Walsall



br>Truly delightful extended period semi-detached residence in a sought after location which benefits from Gas Central Heating, Majority UPVC double Glazing and has many Original Features. Spacious family accommodation which briefly comprises: Vestibule, Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Sun Room, 4 Bedrooms, En-suite shower Room to Master Study, Family Bathroom,

OFFERS AROUND: £245,000



Franchise Street
Wednesbury



Modern 2 bedroom flat in great condition, no upward chain and available immediately, lounge, breakfast kitchen, 2 bedrooms, modern bathroom, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Green Lanes
Bilston

Three Bedroom Semi-detached, Lounge, Kitchen, diner. Down stairs W.C, Driveway providing off road parking for two cars, close to local amenities, bus and travel links, Close to local schools. Call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Barnfield Road
Wolverhampton



Homely 2 bedroom semi detached house on a corner plot and ready to move straight into, Entrance hall, lounge, modern kitchen/diner, utility, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, driveway and rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £104,995

East Park Way
Wolverhampton



PUBLIC NOTICE 11 East Park Way, Wolverhampton, WV1 2DN - We are in receipt of an offer of £82,000 subject to contract for the above property. Anyone wishing to place a higher offer must do so before Tuesday 3 February 2015. EPC - D

£84,950, 2 Bedroom flat with no upward chain, open plan kitchen/lounge,

OFFERS AROUND: £84,950

Queen Street
Bilston



4/5 Bedroom modern detached family house, entrances hallway, downstairs wc, lounge/diner, 2nd reception room, breakfast kitchen, en-suite to main bedroom, family shower room, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £168,000

Bridge Street
Walsall



A Two Bedroom First Floor Flat Situated In The Town Centre Offering Ideal Investment Opportunity Benefitting From Security Intercom Entrance, Double Glazed Sash Windows And No Upward Chain.

OFFERS AROUND: £53,000



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Call to arrange a free valuation



pauldubberley
the estate agent

King Street
Bilston



Immaculate refurbished throughout 3 bedroom detached house, entrance hallway, downstairs shower room and wc, good size lounge, impressive spacious open plan kitchen/diner, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £170,000

Rowan Road
Walsall



An EXTENDED & improved traditional semi detached residence set within a popular south Walsall location. The four bedroom property further features two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, family bathroom & en-suite facilities. Good sized rear garden. Energy rating D.

OFFERS AROUND: £225,000

Birch Lane
Walsall



A SPACIOUS MODERN DETACHED RESIDENCE WITH IMMACULATE ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED OVER THREE FLOORS & SITUATED IN THE POPULAR AREA OF PLSALL. The property further features master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, good size lounge, kitchen & breakfast area, dining room, utility room, family bathroom & guest WC. Contemporary style throughout & must be viewed.


OFFERS AROUND: £215,000

Farmhouse Road
Willenhall



IDEAL FIRST TIME BUYER OR INVESTOR Part Furnished, Two Bedroom Second Floor Flat situated in Short Heath, Willenhall. Entrance Hall, Lounge Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed and Gas Central Heated (where specified). Storage Shed and Communal Gardens also Shared off Road Parking. EPC - C

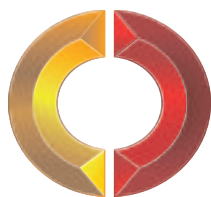
OFFERS AROUND: £82,000



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Wednesbury

NEW

Franchise Street

- Modern style apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Investment potential
- No upward chain

£85,000



Willenhall

NEW

Barnett Road

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage and off road parking
- EPC to be advised

£114,950



Ettingshall Park

Chase View

- Upvc Double Glazed Windows,
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Epc Rating - D

£175,000



Ettingshall Park

Tynedale Crescent

- No Upward Chain
- Large Garden
- Lounge/dining room
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC rating

£164,950



Fordhouses

Stafford Road

- Detached Property
- Three Good size Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Large Private Garden
- Awaiting EPC

£219,950



Wolverhampton

Lonsdale Road

- Large Three Storey Property
- Five Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Close to Local Schools and amenities
- EPC Rating is D

£230,000



Penn

Goldthorne Avenue

- Detached Property
- Good Location
- Extended layout
- Fitted kitchen
- Large Extra Building in rear garden
- EPC Rating D

£224,950



Wolverhampton

Newhampton Road West

- Three bedrooms
- Re-fitted and extended kitchen
- Two reception rooms
- Close to university
- No upward chain
- Epc rating e

£145,000

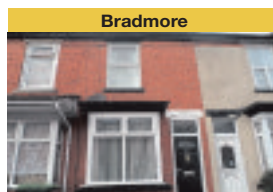


Bloxwich

Wolverhampton Road

- Investment Opportunity
- Three Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Must Be Viewed

£150,000



Bradmore

Burleigh Road

- Upvc Windows
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Epc To Come

£89,950



Fordhouses

Cricket Meadow

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- Fitted Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- Epc Rating E

£140,000



Bilston

Ashley Street

- Mid Terraced House
- Double Glazed & Centrally Heated
- Refurbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Epc F

£97,000



Penn

Belmont Road

- Three Bedroom Detached Property
- UPVC double glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Reception rooms
- EPC rating is E

£210,000



Castlecroft

Clee Hill Drive

- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- kitchen
- EPC rating is D

£75,000



Penn

Penn Road

- Large Three Bed Semi
- Lounge/separate dining room
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC Rating is C

£165,000



Lanesfield

Newman Avenue

- Ground floor
- Two bedroom
- Central heating
- Double glazed
- Landscaped rear garden
- Awaiting epc

£495 PCM



Ashmore Park

Barnard Road

- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazed
- Central Heating
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Epc C

£595 PCM



Wednesfield

Prestwood Road West

- Three Bedrooms
- Double glazed
- Central heating
- Two reception rooms
- Epc E

£625 PCM



Wolverhampton

**LET
MORE PROPERTIES
WANTED**

Columbia Crescent

- First floor apartment
- Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating
- En Suite Shower
- Fitted Kitchen
- Epc C

£545 PCM



Willenhall

**LET
MORE PROPERTIES
WANTED**

Regent Street

- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Double glazed & Centrally Heated
- Spacious lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Epc D

£325 PCM



Hednesford

**LET
MORE PROPERTIES
WANTED**

Cannock Road

- Near To Hednesford Center
- First Floor Flat
- Double Glazed
- Through lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Epc C

£350 PCM

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SHORT HEATH



HOWE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking To The Front/Side & Generous Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£99,995



BLOXWICH RD STH, W'HALL
Well Presented Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Garden & Driveway Parking To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear. GREAT FTB!

£100,000



PARKVIEW CRES, WALSALL
Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C. & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Detached Garage. Driveway To Front & Side. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£124,995



OAKEN DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi Situated On A Generous Corner Plot. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom, Majority D/G, G/C/H. Driveway & Detached Garage To Front/Side & Garden To Rear.

£129,995



ST ANNES RD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, First Floor Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage. Garden. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let.

£74,995



REGENT STREET, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Rear Lobby, Fitted Kitchen And Ground Floor Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed And Gas Central Heated. Garden To Rear. Great FTB or BTL!

£80,000



VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Terrace, Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, First Floor Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Front And Rear Gardens. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let.

£80,000



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G & E/H. Outside There Is A Secure Gated Parking Space And Garage. MUST VIEW!

£89,995



HORTON PLACE, DARLASTON
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Separate W.C. And First Floor Shower Room. D/G, G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking.

£93,995



BENTLEY WHARF, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Modern Two Bed Ground Floor Canal Side Apartment. Comprises Of Open Plan Kitchen/ Diner, Lounge, Balcony Offering Tranquil Canal Views. Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Outside There Are Communal Gardens & Allocated Parking.

£104,995



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern Shower Room. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear Garden.

£107,500



MEMORIAL CL, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Shower Room. D/G & G/C/H. Gardens And Driveway To The Front/Side And An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000



LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

£114,995



ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With Bath & Shower And First Floor W.C. Room. D/G, G/C/H. Rear Garden.

£115,000



SHERLOCK CLOSE, W'HALL
Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£119,950



LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL
Immaculately Presented & Extended Two Bed Semi, Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, W/C, Shower Room. D/G & C/H. Off Road Parking. Generous Garden To Rear.

£122,500



CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. Part D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking & Garage. Rear Garden.

£123,995



SHEPPWELL GREEN, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/ Heating. Off Road Parking. Gardens To Front And Rear.

£127,500



MILL LANE, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Reception Hallway, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Integral Garage. Driveway & An Enclosed Rear Garden.

£130,000



BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD
Modern Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite To Master Bed & Bathroom, Garage, Garden To The Front With Off Road Parking & An Fully Enclosed Rear Garden.

£130,000



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Rear Garden. Great FTB!

£133,000



BALMORAL DRIVE, W'HALL
Immaculate Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Reception Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Rear Garden.

£135,000



COPPICE FARM WAY, W'HALL
Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room And Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed And Gas Central Heated. Driveway Parking To The Fore And Enclosed Garden To Rear.

OIEO £135,000



STOURMORE CLOSE, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Driveway Parking & A Garage To The Fore With An Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£145,000



WELLAND GROVE, W'HALL
Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Driveway & Garage.

£149,995



BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL
Extended Five Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, W.C, Sitting Room, Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway To Fore & An Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£155,000



LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL
Extended Four Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom & En-Suite. D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Fore & An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£155,000



COTTSMOOR GROVE, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, W.C, Spacious Lounge, Dining Area & Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Garden To The Fore, Driveway Leading To Garage. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£167,995



HIGHMOOR CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£169,995



HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Extended Four Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking. Generous Plot.

£170,000



LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner. Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

£180,000



BUSH STREET, DARLASTON
Three Bed Cottage Style Detached Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms & En-Suite W.C To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated Parking, Double Garage With Office & Garden.

£195,000



RAGSTONE CLOSE, WALSALL
Well Presented Modern Four Bed Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Diner, W.C, En-Suite. DG, G/C/H, Integral Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

£199,995



BLOXWICH RD NTH, W'HALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/ Heating.

£275,000



MILL LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom, The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

£280,000

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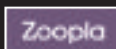
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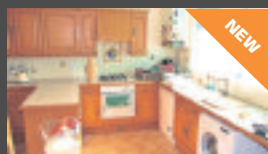
WILLENHALL CRAB LANE
 • Outstanding Impressive Detached Residence on an Extensive Plot with Superb Potential to Extend (STPP) with No Chain
 • Premier Location



WILLENHALL POOL HAYES LANE
 • Spacious Extended Detached Property on Popular Road with No Upward Chain
 • Through Lounge / Dining Room
 • Extended Breakfast Kitchen



WILLENHALL MEMORIAL CLOSE
 • Immaculately Presented Much Improved Semi Detached in Popular Cul De Sac Location
 • Lounge • Conservatory
 • Superb Newly Fitted Kitchen



WILLENHALL LONGWOOD RISE
 • Immaculately Presented Greatly Improved Semi Detached
 • Lounge
 • Superb Newly Fitted Dining Kitchen



WILLENHALL LONGWOOD RISE
 • Immaculately Presented Greatly Improved Semi Detached
 • Lounge
 • Superb Newly Fitted Dining Kitchen



WILLENHALL HODSON AVENUE
 • Improved traditional semi detached property
 • Convenient cul-de-sac location
 • Three bedrooms
 • Lounge



WILLENHALL HODSON AVENUE
 • Improved traditional semi detached property
 • Convenient cul-de-sac location
 • Three bedrooms
 • Lounge



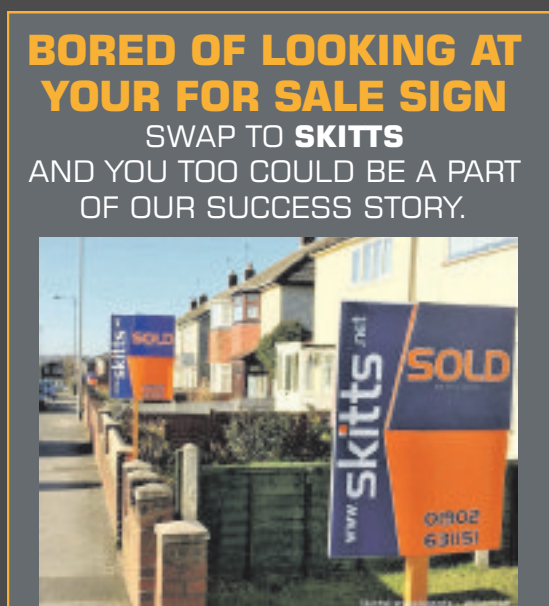
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 • Improved traditional semi detached property
 • Convenient cul-de-sac location
 • Three bedrooms
 • Lounge



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THESE THREE PROPERTIES ON THE SAME ROAD HAVE ALL SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT SINCE THE START OF THE NEW YEAR.

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COPPICE FARM BOWNESS GROVE
 • Superb 4 bedroom detached on exceptional plot
 • 2 Reception • Conservatory • Kitchen, Utility
 • En-suite shower room • Family bathroom
 • Double glazing • Gas CH • Garage • Long driveway



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 • Superb 4 bedroom detached on exceptional plot
 • 2 Reception • Conservatory • Kitchen, Utility
 • En-suite shower room • Family bathroom
 • Double glazing • Gas CH • Garage • Long driveway



WILLENHALL WELLINGTON PLACE
 • Superb Well Appointed First Floor Duplex
 • Maisonette
 • Lounge with Dining Area
 • Fitted Kitchen



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 • Maisonette
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WILLENHALL WELLINGTON PLACE
 • Superb Well Appointed First Floor Duplex
 • Maisonette
 • Lounge with Dining Area
 • Fitted Kitchen

LOT
TBC

The Range Streetly

Viewings: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

Currently let on a 6 month Assured Shorthold Tenancy from 17/10/14 at £575.00 per calendar month (the tenant has however indicated that they are wishing to sign a new contract for at least 12 months) this purpose built ground floor flat is an ideal investment opportunity. Having the unusual advantage of it's own front door leading onto The Range as well as communal hallway with access to rear parking area. Recently constructed, the property has been delightfully appointed and maintained and offers, well planned spacious accommodation with the benefit of full gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. Local amenities are all close at hand with public transport services passing close by to Aldridge Centre. The accommodation in greater detail comprises:- Lounge Area, Kitchen Area Two Bedrooms and Bathroom

LOT
TBC

Land at Lanchester Way Castle Bromwich

Viewings: The site is open for inspection



Freehold building plot with Planning Permission (subject to conditions)

Application No: 2014/959 for the erection 5 no 3 bedroom houses and associated access and car parking. Situated in a popular residential area amongst new and more established residential homes, all amenities are close at hand.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

St Margarets Road Ward End Birmingham

Viewings: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

Traditionally styled end terraced property that has gas fired central heating and double glazing and although in need of some slight improvement would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor with a view to buy to let. Conveniently located close to all amenities the property is set back from the road behind a small fore garden. The property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen Two Bedrooms and Bathroom.

LOT
TBC

Halesowen Street Rowley Regis

Viewings: Strictly By Appointment through Auctioneers



●Guide Price £220,000 PLUS

This substantial semi detached property is currently split into three self contained units and benefits from a good size plot with side driveway leading to parking area and access to row of four garages. Offering an ideal investment opportunity with the additional possibility of development potential, the property gives a potential income of approximately £15,000 per annum.

LOT
TBC

Kinnerley Street Walsall

Viewings: 16th, 23rd March all at 10.30am



In need of complete modernisation this Victorian mid terraced property is situated in the Chucky area of Walsall with all amenities close at hand, the accommodation comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Outbuildings, Yard and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Floyds Lane Walsall

Viewings: 16th, 23rd March at Midday



A good sized, traditional semi detached house in this popular and convenient location in need of considerable improvement, but offering an excellent opportunity to the investment purchaser. Having uPVC double glazing and gas central heating the property includes: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Sun Room/Utility, three Bedrooms, Bathroom, rear garden with sheds and wide side area with potential for a garage and fore garden with parking.

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Kelway Avenue Great Barr

Viewings: 16th and 23rd March at 12.45



Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac on the Park Farm Estate this detached family residence is in need of complete refurbishment and offers an ideal opportunity for development with all amenities close at hand the property comprises:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Sep W.C. Garage, Fore and Rear Garden.

●Auction Guide Price £130,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Borneo Street Walsall

Viewings: 16th, 23rd March all at 11.30am



Situated in the popular Butts area of Walsall within a short distance of the town centre with all facilities provided this mid terraced property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement offering an ideal investment opportunity or builder purchase the property comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby and Access to W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Beacon Street Walsall

Appointment through Auctioneers



Traditionally styled Victorian mid terraced property situated in the sought after Chucky area of Walsall with all amenities close at hand. Offering an ideal investment opportunity currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy for 6 months from 3/10/14 at £500 per calendar month. With gas fired central heating and double glazing the property comprises: Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore Garden, Enclosed Yard and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Kinnerley Street Walsall

Viewings: 16th, 23rd March all at 10.30am



In need of complete modernisation this Victorian mid terraced property is situated in the Chucky area of Walsall with amenities close at hand the accommodation comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Outbuildings, Yard and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Clarkes Lane Willenhall

Viewings: 16th March at 3.00 pm



A good sized traditional semi detached house in this convenient location having been extended, but requiring certain modernisation. Having been well maintained the property is decoratively very dated and as such requires improvement but could be an ideal investment or family home. Having gas central heating and uPVC double glazing the property includes: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and 3 Bedrooms.

●Guide Price £85,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Paget Road Pype Hayes

Appointment through Auctioneers



Being set back from the road behind an enclosed wall with decorative railings, the property is well located close to all amenities and easy access to Birmingham City Centre and Sutton Coldfield. In need of some modernisation the centrally heated and double glazed accommodation briefly comprises:- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Four Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Butts Road Walsall

Viewings: 16th, 23rd March All at 11am



This first floor flat offers spacious well planned accommodation benefitting from gas central heating via a Ferrol boiler and is predominantly uPVC double glazed making an ideal investment opportunity, offering a good potential investment yield. The property is situated within a short distance of Walsall town centre and comprises:- Communal Entrance Hallway and staircase, Reception Hall with store cupboard and access to Lounge, Kitchen access to balcony, Bedroom One with range of wardrobes, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom.

●Guide Price £30,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Woodend Handsworth

Viewings: 19th, 28th March at 11am



A semi detached property "ripe for renovation" convenient to all local amenities, schools and public transport services and within easy access to motorway networks. Offering excellent scope for improvement the property comprises: Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Sep W.C., Front Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £100,000-£110,000

LOT
TBC

Thetford Road Great Barr

Viewings: 16th and 23rd March 1.15 pm



Conveniently situated in a popular and desirable residential area with amenities and transport links close by this semi detached property boasts gas central heating and double glazing but is in need of a certain amount of modernisation and upgrading. With a double garage at the rear the property comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Lounge Area, Dining Room and Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

LOT
TBC

Beaton Close Willenhall

Viewing: 16th, 23rd March all at 2.30 pm



Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac ideally suited to an investor buyer this end of terrace property has double glazing and gas central heating (not tested) but does require basic refurbishment internally. Conveniently located close to all amenities, the property comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen Area, Conservatory Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £55,000 - £65,000

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide



Walsall
01922 711444
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- Water Reed Grove, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Fully Furnished House
 - Cloakroom / WC
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen/Diner
 - Family Bathroom & Ensuite Shower Room
 - Viewing Essential

Monthly Rental Of £725



- Station Road, Walsall
- Popular Aldridge Location
 - Four Bed Detached
 - Rear Double Garage
 - Off Road Parking
 - Rear Garden
 - Available Immediately

Monthly Rental Of £700



- Red Brook Road, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi
 - Lounge, Diner
 - Family Bathroom
 - Kitchen
 - Front & Rear Garden
 - Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600



- Mob Lane, Walsall
- Large Four Bed Semi Detached
 - Fields To Front
 - Three Receptions
 - Conservatory
 - Ensuite to Downstairs Bedroom
 - DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £595



- Dunnerdale Road, West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Town House
 - Popular Village Location
 - Lounge, Dining Room
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £575



- Blakenall Lane, Walsall
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Family Bathroom with Shower
 - Front & Rear Gardens
 - Off Road Parking
 - Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £550



- Tewkesbury Road, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced
 - Lounge
 - New Kitchen / Diner
 - New Family Bathroom
 - Block Paved Driveway
 - DHSS Considered. Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £525



- Terret Close, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
 - Lounge with French Doors
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom & Ensuite
 - Allocated Parking Space
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £475

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 Midlands 2014**

Judges Commented: Goodchilts understands
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- Edinburgh Lane, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Entrance Hall
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Lounge
 - Family Bathroom
 - Front & Rear Gardens
 - Gas Central Heating
 - Sorry No DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495



- Wyre Close, Walsall Wood
- Two bedroom end
 - Part gas central heating
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £475



- Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich
- THREE Bedroom Terraced
 - Front Reception Room
 - Lounge with French Doors
 - Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubical
 - Double Glazing
 - New Gas Central Heating
 - Front & Rear Garden
 - DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental of £495



- Kingfisher Court, Willenhall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
 - Lounge with Laminate Flooring
 - Modern Kitchen
 - Gas Central Heating
 - Double Glazing
 - Allocated Parking

Monthly Rental Of £475



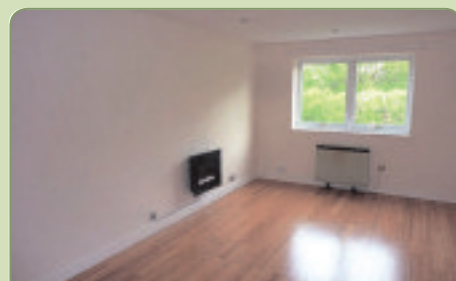
- Barrow Close, Walsall Wood
- two bedroom first floor apartment
 - Economy 7 Heating
 - double glazing
 - Lounge Diner
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £475



- Walker Road, Walsall
- Top Floor Two Bedroom Apartment
 - Open Plan Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom with Shower
 - DHSS Accepted
 - Secure Intercom Access

Monthly Rental Of £450



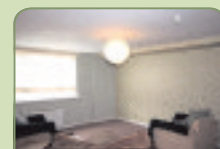
- Taverners Close, Willenhall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Double Bedroom
 - Bathroom
 - Front Garden
 - Off Road Parking
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £425



- Lichfield Road, Walsall
- First Floor Apartment
 - Main Transport Links To Walsall
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £425



- High Street, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat above Retail Premises
 - Large Lounge
 - Large Bathroom
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Lounge Diner
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400



- Bloxwich Road, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
 - Private Entrance
 - Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Parking Space
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400



- Ladypool Close, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Maisonette
 - New Fitted Bathroom
 - Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
 - New Fitted Kitchen
 - Master Bedroom with built in Robe
 - Hallway with ample storage cupboards
 - Double Glazing
 - Electric Heating
 - Shared Rear Gardens
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets, Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £475



- Bloxwich Road, Walsall
- One Bedroom Flat
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £380



- The Exchange, Walsall
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
 - Above Retail Premises
 - Bloxwich High Street Location
 - Lounge/Kitchen
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £375



- Moat Road, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat
 - First Floor
 - Kitchen
 - Shower Room & WC
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350



- Sandwell Street, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat
 - First Floor
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Close to Town Centre

Monthly Rental Of £350



- Barracks Lane, Walsall
- One Bedroom Flat above Retail Premises
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Shower Room
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £300

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LET!

Wych Elm Road, Walsall
• Four Bedroom Detached Home
• Two Reception Plus Conservatory
• Modern Fitted Kitchen With Utility
• Four Good Sized Bedrooms
• Ensuite Shower Room
• Off Road Parking and Garage

Monthly Rental Of £775



LET!

Hilary Drive, Walsall
• Semi Detached Family Home
• Popular Aldridge Location
• Modern Kitchen
• Large Lounge
• Three Bedrooms
• Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £600



LET!

Mob Lane, Walsall
• Large Four Bed Semi Detached
• Fields To Front
• Three Receptions
• Conservatory
• Ensuite to Downstairs Bedroom
• DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £595



LET!

Buckingham Drive, Willenhall
• Three Bedroom Detached Property
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Family Bathroom
• Front & Rear Gardens
• DHSS Accepted

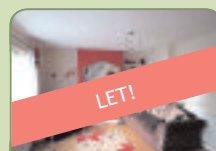
Monthly Rental Of £550



LET!

Furst Street, Walsall
• Modern Family Home
• Fitted Kitchen
• Modern Lounge
• Two Bedrooms Plus Study
• Family Bathroom
• Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £525



LET!

Beeches Road, Walsall
• Two Bedroom Extended Semi-Detached
• Lounge
• Through Kitchen/Diner
• Utility
• Family Bathroom
• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £510



LET!

Sneyd Hall Road, Walsall
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Entrance Porch/Hall
• Kitchen/Diner
• Lounge
• Side Passageway
• Utility Room

Monthly Rental Of £500



LET!

Leyland Croft, Walsall
• Large One Bedroom Flat
• New Kitchen
• New Bathroom
• Spacious Throughout
• Communal Gardens
• DHSS Considered

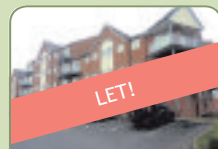
Monthly Rental Of £380



LET!

Harrison Street, Walsall
• Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Double Glazing, Electric Heating
• DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400



LET!

Waterfront Way, Walsall
• One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
• Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
• Family Bathroom
• Allocated Parking
• Close to all amenities & near canal
• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425

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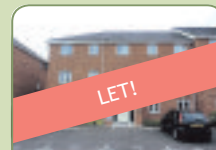
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AUCTION - 24th MARCH 2015



14 LONGDON AVENUE GOLDTHORN PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented three bedroomed Semi., through lounge, Conservatory, kitchen, utility, bathroom, Gas CH., garage, attractive rear garden. EPC: D66

Guide: £140,000 / £145,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.**



193 DIXON STREET WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment

Mid Terraced, hall, lounge, kitchen, rear hall, wc., three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH, rear garden, off-road parking EPC: C.74

Guide: £65,000 / £70,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 10.30 a.m.**



84 BELMONT ROAD PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON

Detached House in popular district, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry, garden lounge, wc., three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH., large extended garage, garden with double gates on rear boundary. EPC: E.50

Guide: £120,000 / £125,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.**



426 PENN ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON

Large and impressive Freehold building converted to three flats -
Flat No. 2 (First Floor) breakfast room, lounge, inner landing, bedroom 1 with en suite shower, bedroom 2, w.c. EPC: F.34
Flat No. 3 (Second Floor) lounge / kitchen area, double bedroom, bathroom. EPC: G2
(NOTE: Ground Floor Flat No. 1 - in separate ownership and not included in sale).

Guide: £70,000 / £80,000

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.**



19 MILL LANE, TETTENHALL WOOD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Excellent location with open land to rear Spacious Semi, lounge, dining area, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH., garage & off-road parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC: C.73

Guide: £150,000 / £155,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 12.00 noon**



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Guide: £18,000 / £23,000



229 TRYSULL ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON

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Two x 4 Bedroomed Detached Houses

Guide £180,000 / £190,000

VIEW FROM ROAD FRONTAGE



175 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted residence in prime location. Wide hall, through lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby, wc and store, fine landing, three double bedrooms, bathroom. Outside: loggia, lovely gardens with wooded backdrop. EPC: G19

Guide: £240,000 / £260,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th MARCH @ 12.15 p.m.

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35 monthly payments of	£129	Total amount of credit	£7,821.02
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Acceptance fee [‡]	£125	Interest rate	3.77%
Optional final payment	£4,103.95	Excess mileage (inc VAT) [†]	4.4ppm
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Looks like a hooligan but behaves like a gentleman

By Ian Donaldson

Shock, horror! Ford has put a diesel engine in the Focus ST for the first time. Is it the end of performance Fords as we know them, or just another chapter in an enduring Anglo-American love story?

The engine in question is a tuned-up version of the same 2.0-litre one you'll find elsewhere in the Focus range, so it's far from being any sort of race-bred or sports-inspired motor. Instead, it gives Ford's hatchback standard bearer low running costs for the first time ever.

Here's an eyebrow-raiser for the purists: there are no visual differences between this and the full-fat 247bhp petrol-engined hooligan-mobile.

None. You also get the same choice of colours, including the new Stealth Grey ably modelled by the 'Wagon' estate you see in the pictures.

The petrol Focus ST has earned a reputation as a bit of a lout and we love it for that. It's not the most powerful hot hatch but every one of its horses runs riot at the first chance. The diesel simply can't walk the same walk, but its styling talks the talk and will command respect.

If you're desperately scratching for ways to make a case to your better half in favour of buying an ST, you could technically argue that the lowered suspension makes it easier to get bags in and out of the boot. Those springs do create something of a busy ride, though.

Rejoice, for the awful dashboard of the previous model has been replaced with a much neater setup, divided into three sections covering audio, heating and infotainment. The latter comes courtesy of an eight-inch touch-screen jewelled with colourful graphics and the capacity for split-screen usefulness.

Limits

The diesel pulls hard out of bends through second and third, tugging at the steering wheel even in the dry, but soon, from the gloriously figure-hugging front seats, you realise you've reached its limits. It's good fun, but it still sounds like a diesel and its performance ceiling is much lower than its petrol twin's. The Wagon has a slightly dubious power-steering calibration, too, with a strong urge to self-centre all the time.

Mind you, when you press on along a twisty road you get a glimpse of its impressive balance and outright cross-country potential. It's like a gazelle after a heavy lunch; ultimately agile and alert, but hampered by a bit of extra weight that it's better off without.

It makes more sense as a fast cruiser, where its more laid-back engine dynamics and stable chassis gobble up miles like kids unleashed upon free chocolate. If only that ride quality wasn't so persistently active.

Buying diesel brings you a road tax bill of a piffling £20 per year.

And if you're as gentle as a breeze in Toytown in your dealings with the throttle, apparently you could get 67mpg. But don't count on it.

On the other hand the diesel is exactly the same price as the petrol, making even the top-spec ST-3 a very tempting £25,995 – a good chunk cheaper than its rivals. You'll be asked for £22,195 for an ST-1 model but don't pay it. Some measure of dealer discount should be offered on all versions.

The petrol ST is for out-and-out thrill-seekers. The sort of people who enjoy bungee-jumping over shark-infested waters while drinking black market tequila with Tabasco sauce chasers. The diesel is designed for people who want the ST's looks and a measure of the performance, but with running costs that are much less likely to cause heart problems.

If this car was a ... bakery showpiece it would be a three-tier, ultra-indulgent iced fruit cake, but with half the fat.

TESTED

Ford Focus ST TDCi, from £22,195

Engine: Four-cylinder diesel producing 182bhp and 295lb/ft

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 135mph, 0-62mph in 8.1 seconds

Fuel Economy: 67.3mpg

Emissions: 110g/km

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Insignia – back to the front?

By David Banner

Welcome to Britain's best selling traditional family car. Yes, you heard that right Vauxhall's Insignia. Launched in 2008 as a more stylish replacement for the uninspiring Vectra, this model was instantly well received, carrying off the coveted 2009 Car of the Year title and racking up impressive sales at the same time as other mainstream brands were struggling.

This improved model has had a thorough chassis update tested on proper bumpy British roads, with a redesigned rear suspension system to improve ride comfort and a steering calibration refreshment that's brought a more direct feel through the corners.

And both of those issues can be further improved if you tick the extra-cost box for the FlexRide adaptive damping system.

You can't fault the effort that's gone into all of this – over 60 percent of the chassis componentry is new – but it's not enough to make this into a car you'd really describe as 'rewarding'.

What it does do is perfect what was there in the first place. For most of the people, most of the time, this, dynamically, is all the car they will ever need, quietly and effectively getting on with the job of getting you from A to B.

Refinement

The 'quietly' bit's important. Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class.

But isn't now. Though at the launch of this revised version, an old 2.0 CDTi 130 unit was still being offered as a range price leader, most sales emphasis these days is put on the two entry-level 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX units, offering either 120 or 140PS.

There's also a less frugal 163PS version and a potent 195PS 2.0 CDTi Biturbo.

In the petrol range, there's also a cheap old-tech engine choice – the 140PS 1.8i unit – but again, more emphasis is being put on the modern turbo powerplant offerings, the 140PS 1.4T, the 170PS 1.6 SiDi and the 250PS 2.0 SiDi. At the top of the range, a 325PS 2.0 V6 continues in the VXR SuperSports model.

This VXR has 4WD but the only other model in the range that gets it is the Country Tourer estate version which, with its raised ride height, aims to offer an SUV alternative.

Outside, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range. That's certainly the feel you get from the front end with its redesigned high-gloss chrome grille and thinner logo bar cradling a prominent Griffin badge and including winglets that link with the sleeker gloss black-trimmed headlights.

Up-to-date

And inside? Well it feels a great deal more up to date, with many of the previously scattered and confusing little buttons tidied up onto a (sadly optional) central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to audio selections, Bluetooth phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

There's even a slightly cheap-feeling touchpad behind the gearlever that accepts one, two or three finger gestures for the various operating functions – or you can press a button on the steering wheel and activate the whole thing by voice control.

More hi-tech can be viewed through the redesigned three-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel where you'll find an instrument cluster with another 8-inch high resolution display.

This one, also optional and framed by conventional analogue gauges either side, is primarily there to show a virtual speedometer but can also be configured to display all sorts of information such as smartphone or audio use – or even navigation.

Out back, the hatch most choose offers a 530-litre boot – with 540-litres on offer in the Sports Tourer estate.

In theory, Insignia pricing covers a very wide span – anywhere between £17,000 and £33,000.

In practice, almost all Insignia sales are concentrated in the £17,000 to £22,000 bracket, with most of those going to business buyers who usually want one of the 2.0-litre CDTi diesel variants. Paying much more than that for this car takes it into the BMW 3 Series dominated compact executive saloon bracket where mainstream makers usually struggle.

Talking of saloons, there's a four-door Insignia saloon bodystyle as a no-cost option to the more familiar five-door hatch, but it comes with a much smaller range of trim and engine choices.



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8

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01902 416495.

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MNA Media, publishers of the Express & Star, Shropshire Star and their associated weekly newspapers has the following vacancy working within the Express Distribution team at our Black Lake, West Bromwich office.

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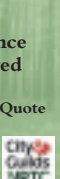
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TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age, daytime, no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1913 Box No: 414701

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471

KELLY, 42yrs, loves to chat and flirt with guys on-line and by text. Box No: 4556847

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

STACY, 51yrs, new to area, hopes to meet new friends, any age for fun and friendship. Box No: 4568848

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde W/LTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299

MARY, 32yrs, attractive brunette loves older mature gents who have lots of interests. Box No: 4568849

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to struggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235

CAROLINE, sophisticated feminine lady, just turned 40 and wants to meet new friends. Box No: 4568850

GWEN middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415785

Men seeking women

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197

JANE, bored at home, doesn't get out much and wants flirty chats, she's 39 but looks younger. Box No: 4568851

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

MINDY, American lady moved to UK and looking to meet British chap for chats, fun, more. Box No: 4568853

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057

SOPHIE is 35yrs, blonde, attractive, chatty and flirtatious. Please text if you want to hear more. Box No: 4568854

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

LINDY, broadminded mid 40's lady loves to chat about anything with anyone. Box No: 4568858

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

BARBARA, caring lady, 54yrs, doesn't get out much, works nights, looking for daytime chats with men any age. Box No: 4568855

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ATTRACTIVE professional widow, 73, W/LTM sincere caring gent, widower for friendship, meals in, conversation and to put a smile on our faces. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415951

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MALC 50, seeking adventurous, spontaneous, sensitive female, 50-65 for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415253

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603

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B Teams plans will be opposed, says Smith

WALSALL boss Dean Smith thinks proposals to introduce Premier League B teams in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy will be opposed by clubs in Leagues One and Two.

Discussions are ongoing among clubs in the Football League's bottom two tiers over whether to permit under-21 teams to enter the competition from next season.

But Smith, who this season has led the Saddlers to a first-ever appearance at Wembley through the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, believes the idea will be unpopular with both clubs and fans.

"For me, what would supporters want to go and see?" he said. "Would they want to see a Walsall v Bristol City final or a Manchester United B v Arsenal B final?"

"I think that is the way the lower league clubs and smaller league clubs would see it. I would certainly feel that way.

"We talk about the development of players for the national team, I think we are part of that. "Michael Cain getting games here and Jordy Hiwula getting games here, is part and parcel of players going out on loan and experiencing games at men's level in League One and League Two."

Under the proposals, the Trophy would begin with teams divided into 16 regionalised groups of four, each containing an under-21 team.

The B Team idea was first developed by FA Chairman Greg Dyke as part of his Commission set up to find ways of improving the England national team.

But it has faced severe criticism, with the notion of introducing B teams into the Football League pyramid rejected last year.

Keeper dealt a double bluff in penalty shot

RICHARD O'Donnell has revealed the game of double bluff behind this week's Yeovil penalty heroics.

The keeper helped ensure the Saddlers returned from Somerset with a 1-0 win when he saved Adam Morgan's 72nd minute spot-kick.

And he later revealed the pre-game planning which allowed him to predict where the Glovers striker would place his attempt.

"We were expecting him to take the penalty because he took the last one here, which he went the keeper's right with," said O'Donnell.

"We figured he would know we had looked at that, so that is why I decided to go the other way. Luckily it proved to be correct and I was just happy to keep it out."

The save meant Jordy Hiwula's 32nd minute strike was enough to give the Saddlers victory.

And O'Donnell expressed sympathy with opposite number Scott Loach, who was at fault for the goal.

O'Donnell said: "That is the life of a goalkeeper."

Kenny loses out to boss of Canaries

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has missed out on the Championship's manager of the month award.

Norwich boss Alex Neil was the choice of the SkyBet panel after five straight wins in February. Jackett had four from six.

Jackett is looking forward, saying: "It feels like we're well into March now and having a good February just gives you the opportunity to have a good March.

"It will be similar with April, we'll need a good March to have a good April."

Meanwhile, winger Bakary Sako has dedicated his Championship fans player of the month award to the team. "I was delighted to get the award but it's not about me," he said. "Without the team I wouldn't be able to achieve it."

Match abandoned as ref is injured

**Harborne 0 Bloxwich 7
(Match Abandoned 25 mins.)**

BLOXWICH RFC travelled away to second in the league Harborne RFC.

The last time these two teams met Harborne edged out Bloxwich 24-33 in an entertaining game. Bloxwich started the game by kicking off into the wind, and with a good chase were able to put the home side on the back foot.

Harborne wanted to ship the ball wide but the quick Bloxwich defensive forced the home team into errors. Bloxwich used a mixture of forward and back runners to drag the Harborne defence into midfield. This left space on the blind side for scrum half Mar-

tin Maclean who spotted full back Dean Bottomer with a long miss pass to put him into a gap near the touch line.

Harborne were able to stop the Bloxwich attack just five metres from their own try line, but only by giving away a penalty at the breakdown.

Returning skipper Richard Geary opted for the scrum, which turned out to be the correct call.

The Bloxwich front row buckled the defending scrum which gave the momentum for big Jack Hunt to pick up from No.8 and glide over for the first score of the game.

Sean Bottomer calmly guided the ball through the uprights to give Bloxwich a 7-0 lead.

Bloxwich were soon back where they wanted to be when flanker Brad Russell broke from a maul and headed for the Harborne try line.

The next five minutes saw some flowing rugby from Bloxwich with good line breaks from members of their back line.

During the action a swinging leg from a tackle hit the referee's knee.

He was clearly struggling, and with only 25 minutes played was unable to continue. The match had to be abandoned and will have to be replayed.

Bloxwich were disappointed after playing good rugby. Bloxwich RFC 2nd XV hosted St Leonards at King George's and ran in six tries to win 38-7.

Wood battle ends with a stalemate

**Walsall Wood 0 Boldmere St Michaels 0
ANOTHER Oak Park stalemate as neither side could get on the score-board.**

The game started quietly, with the protagonists appearing to feel each other out.

It was the Mikes who were first to threaten when on eight minutes an intricate move through the centre saw Jermain Clark race into the box, keeper Mario Kisiel flicked the ball off his toe but it flew straight to Cameron Jones who fired a first time effort wide.

Then a right wing corner was delivered to the near post, Jason Holmes flicked the ball on for Jack Hulin to power a header just too high.

Harry Harris won the ball left of centre and delivered a superb 60-yard diagonal ball into the right of the box to find Ben Evans.

Keeper Adam Jenkins came racing out and as Evans tried to take the ball past him he touched the ball away at full stretch and they both went down in a heap.

A penalty was awarded but Joey Butlin fired wide.

Three minutes later Butlin collected a ball in the centre, powered through two tackles, his low drive pushed away by Jenkins.

Intercepted

Anthony Juxon intercepted a pass in midfield and raced for goal, he laid the ball off right to Butlin who cleverly sidestepped one challenge before firing in a 20-yard low drive, that brought another full-length save from Jenkins.

The last goalmouth action of the half came on 41 minutes, Corey Curritthers was fouled wide right and from the resulting free kick Pickering saw his header bring another full-length save from Jenkins.

Wood cranked up the pressure at the start of the second half, three minutes in Curritthers cut in from the right, but Jenkins kept out his low drive.

With 60 minutes gone, Pickering got clear wide left, crossed into the box, the ball only cleared out to Adams to hit a first-time effort wide.

Two minutes later a strong defensive challenge by Gonzales saw him break up a rare Mikes attack. His long ball forward was collected by Pickering to race into the box, Hulin making a superb last ditch tackle; penalty appeals were ignored.

Wood had the last word on 88 minutes a first time hit was sent over the far angle by Curritthers. It's Continental Star on Saturday at Oak Park, then Basford United on Tuesday night.

Walsall fall to promotion chasers



Walsall centre Richard Clarke goes crashing through the Worcester tackles during the match

**Worcester Wanderers 38
Walsall 19**

WORCESTER maintained their promotion challenge with a convincing victory over their West Midlands opponents.

Walsall had the benefit of the strong wind during the first half, but failed to establish many good attacking field positions.

They had opportunities to challenge the Worcester defence, but unfortunately, the ball was spilled on several occasions.

Roger Weston was off-target with an early long range penalty before the hosts took the lead when No.8 Jacob Saddington

went over after a prolonged attack. Good passing saw hooker Ben Rhodes cross wide out and then an attack from deep was finished off by Tom Dodge from 40 metres. Ollie Meadows converted.

The final ten minutes of the first half saw Walsall get their first score when Jamie Hickman touched down with Weston converting.

The revival was short lived as a clearance kick was charged down and Russ Marsland scored in the corner.

The visitors did however secure a score when a penalty try was awarded which Weston converted.

In second half the hosts used the wind to gain positions deep in Walsall territory and scrum half Tom Bell darted over the line.

Centre Saddington also cut through with Meadows converting both.

The visitors continued their attacks and Richard Fearnhead beat the defence to score in the corner.

Walsall had opportunities to get a bonus point score during the final five minutes, but they tended to rely on their forward power to try and get the crucial breakthrough. No game this Saturday for Walsall.

Aldridge side scrape their way to narrow win

Stourport 23 Aldridge 26
ALDRIDGE managed a narrow win over Stourport in their quest for promotion from the Midlands 5 West North.

However, the home side scored two converted tries within the first 10 minutes.

Both sides then swapped penalties, with Alex Yates scoring for Aldridge to leave the score 17-3.

A Yates then finished off a fine running move with a superb try which he converted to make the score.

In a game disrupted by sin bins for players from both sides penalties were obviously going to be important.

Both sides scored further penalties to leave the half time score 20-13.

Aldridge hoped that, with the elements in their favour in the second half they might be able to take the lead. But it took a long time.

Nick Yates scored two super tries sandwiched between a further Stourport penalty to leave the score tantalisingly poised at 23-23.

By this time Aldridge had recovered their composure and it came as no surprise when they slotted another penalty courtesy of A Yates to secure an important win.

Man of the Match was Jim Arnold for a superb all-round game in the second row and a control over his pack that led to the Aldridge victory. Aldridge complete their league season on Saturday 21st March against one of the sides who have beaten them this season, Warley.

A victory over Warley would secure promotion. Let's have as many supporters as possible up at Bourne Vale for this game.

Pelsall Colts cut down the Wood squad

**Lichfield & Walsall
District Football League
League One**

PELSALL Villa Colts 7 Cannock Wood 1

Walsall Phoenix 0 Dr Johnson 0

League Two

ASP Victoria 3 Dog FC 2

Hussey Arms 0 Duke of Wellington 1

Trent Valley Rovers 2 Eximius Warriors 1

League Three

Bowman FC 2 Cellar Door 4

Ros Park FC 2 Green Rock Tavern 5

W'hal 3 Crowns 0 Wych Elm FC 8

H Boston Cup - quarter final

Scales Fc 4 Queens Head 5

J Donnelly Cup - round three

AFC Bush 1 Alma FC 0

Burntwood Star 3 Prince of Wales 5

D Donovan Cup - round one

Swan FC 4 Erdington Star 2 (aet)

G Skett Cup - quarter final

Oak Park Rangers 2 GS Rockets 3

Dein heaps praise on the Saddlers bid

DAVID Dein has praised Walsall's cup final bid - and warned Albion and Villa fans they face a struggle for Premier League survival.

The former Arsenal vice-chairman praised the Saddlers' achievement in getting to Wembley for the first time in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final, where they will face Bristol City on March 22.

Premier League ambassador Dein, aged 71, was in Walsall to give a motivational talk to students at Shelfield Academy, and has sampled the winning feeling in finals more than being on the losing side.

"People talk about dreams but it's wonderful to see Walsall getting to Wembley," said Dein. "That's what all the fans aspire to - to have a wonderful day."

"Of course they want to win."

Wolves draw in high tempo performance

Wolves 2 Watford 2

KENNY Jackett's side, perhaps, deserved more than a point from this high-tempo encounter for the way they dominated much of the game.

But with 10 games to go, this was probably one they needed to win to start eating into that four-point gap to the play-off places.

Coming against such formidable opposition, the performance suggested they could yet play a part in the end-of-season showdown; the result and the table suggests they will miss out.

The latter feeling is how it's been for a while for Wolves.

Whenever the team has been found wanting Jackett has found a solution. On Saturday the same could be said to reinforce the opinion that the head coach is his own man.

He decided he needed to go 'back to the future' by dusting off his 4-2-3-1 formation, ditching the 4-4-2 that had largely worked so well for the previous six games.

For the first time from the start, he deployed the recently under-used James Henry in the No.10 role.

But Henry has the intelligence, subtlety of touch and vision to justify his manager's faith in him and

Football

he responded with a man of the match performance.

Henry always looks to have the urgency about him to maintain a good tempo and so it proved as Wolves took the game to free-flowing Watford throughout in arguably the best game seen at Molineux this season.

Benik Afobe gave the home side the perfect start in the 14th minute with his seventh goal in 11 games for his new club, taking his tally to 26 for the season which made him the leading marksman in all four divisions.

Combination

Even at £2m, Afobe looks a steal. It's difficult to recall a Wolves striker with the combination of such control, quick feet, pace and movement.

And he showed all those qualities as he effortlessly brought down Kevin McDonald's pass before taking a touch and slotting it past keeper Heurelho Gomes.

Wolves retained the initiative after the goal, but apart from Henry drawing a comfortable save from

Gomes, they failed to penetrate. And they found themselves all square again as a West Midlands connection split their defence on the half hour.

Former Walsall striker Troy Deeney's long pass from the left was gobbled up by Matej Vydra and the ex-Albion loanee did the rest, confidently side-footing past one-time Watford keeper Tomasz Kuszczak.

The goal didn't rattle Wolves, however, as they continued to take the game to Watford.

Henry just failed to connect with a teasing cross from Rajiv Van La Parra while Afobe's rising header was tipped over by Gomes from Henry's cross.

If the first half warmed the hearts of Wolves fans then the second got the pulses racing higher.

Jack Price's first senior goal five minutes after the restart gave the home side some reward for flying out of the traps as he deflected in Kortney Hause's long-range drive.

And that sparked Wolves' best period of the game. Henry was a fraction wide with a looping header, and after Ben Watson's isolated curler hit the underside of the bar, Afobe's cross was almost diverted in by Craig Cathcart for an own goal on 61.

Wolves were made to rue not making the most of their chances when Deeney poked home the equaliser.



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Khalsa keep nine-point table lead

Sporting Khalsa 5 AFC Smethwick 0
SPORTING Khalsa's nine-point lead at the top of the West Midlands Premier remains intact after a comfortable 5-0 win over AFC Smethwick.

The visitors' resistance lasted just four minutes as a Tim Jackson free kick found the head of Khalsa's St Kitts and Nevis international centre-half Tes Robinson to open the scoring.

Khalsa doubled their lead on 32 minutes when Bannister twisted and turned in the area, forced a decent save from Mann and Marvin Nisbett was allowed to toe home from six yards.

Mann produced a great save from Bannister from long range just before the break and on the other side of the interval again denied Bannister, this time from a header from MensahKinch's cross.

Brad Lawley made it 3-0 on 62 minutes, driving a powerful low shot past Mann from the edge of the area.

Substitute Chris Rabone hit the fourth on 84 minutes, great work by Nicky Campbell and Bannister setting the pacey winger free to score from just inside the box. A minute later, Lawley had a chance to score from point blank range as Joe Rogers released Bannister with a quickly taken free kick and his cross just eluded Lawley.

Bannister grabbed the goal his efforts deserved going into stoppage time, more good work by Rabone providing the shooting chance that Mann this time wasn't able to stop.

Late chances for Chris Waterhouse and Campbell failed to come to anything, Mann again making a good save in the later instance.

Khalsa travel to Stone Old Alleynians on Saturday.

Bloxwich put on a gr-eight show to grab the victory

Bloxwich Mens 1st XI 8 Whitchurch 1
BLOXWICH started the game capily and never really got started in the second half.

Despite having a lot of the ball and putting on a lot of the pressure, it took Bloxwich 20 minutes to score with Adam Baldwin scoring his first of another hat-trick and Jake Perkins adding another to his ever-increasing goal tally.

Bloxwich were instructed to use the wings a lot more effectively in the second half by coach Steve Mallows and this worked to great effect.

The home side came alive in the second half with Phil Ashcroft silkily guiding the ball into the goal on a superb solo run into the D.

Whitchurch managed to break past a sleeping Bloxwich defence to get their only goal early in the second half.

In what turned out to be a very one sided affair, Gary Williams produced some magic by scoring an incredible hat-trick in the space of four minutes with three fantastic goals.

The third being a top right hand corner smash the team and Gary will not forget any time soon.

It's going to be hard work, Bradshaw

TOM Bradshaw accepts hard work is required to lift Walsall out of their current slump after admitting Saturday's performance at Barnsley simply wasn't good enough.

And the Saddlers top scorer insists the lure of a Wembley final is not playing on the minds of players, after a run of four defeats in six games.

The latest setback came at Oakwell, where Dean Smith's side failed to register an attempt on target.

And Bradshaw said: "We don't want to make excuses, it wasn't good enough.

"The pitch wasn't great and the ball was swirl-

Football

ing round in the wind. It was the same for both sides and they just adapted better, that is the long and short of it.

"It (the slump) is not down to one reason, that is too simple.

"There are areas we need to improve on to combat slightly more direct teams. We seem to be struggling at the moment.

"We don't want to be putting in performances like that. Obviously everyone at the club is striving to be better and for a promotion push. It is

difficult on days like Saturday, we can only do our best to rectify it."

On loan Stoke striker George Waring opened the scoring for the Tykes in controversial fashion as he appeared to use a hand to force home Conor Hourihane's corner.

There was no doubting the legality of his second 19 minutes from time and a late Sam Winnall strike only increased the Saddlers misery.

They now face home games with MK Dons and Sheffield United before going to Wembley for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final on Sunday week.

Bradshaw is adamant the big day has been put out of their minds for now.

SADDLERS SIDE IS SECOND BEST

Barnsley 3 Saddlers 0
THREE times in the last fortnight, Walsall have been second best by a distance.

Take the previous weekend's insipid outing against Orient, throw in the first hour at Preston, repeat for 90 minutes and that should give you a distinct flavour of what the Saddlers served up at Oakwell.

There might have been justified complaints about George Waring's Diego Maradona impression for the hosts' opener. But when you fail to register a shot on target in the entire game, perhaps there are more pressing concerns.

Whatever the ugly nature of Waring's first, his second 19 minutes time merely confirmed his side's dominance and they might have added more than Sam Winnall's late effort as they cantered to victory.

That has been an all too familiar occurrence for the Saddlers of late and must surely be the chief concern for manager Dean Smith.

When asked about the progress the club has made in his four years at the helm, he often speaks of their ability to compete in each game but they have been disconcertingly erratic of late.

Distraction

A Wembley date looming into view might appear the obvious source of distraction yet as Smith has been at pains to point out, it should be a means of motivation for players battling for places.

On Saturday, few if any emerged with any credit. Reece Flanagan, who supplied an excellent lofted pass for Jordy Hiwula on the hour mark, was probably the pick of the bunch and with Sam Mantom back on the bench - the one piece of good news for the Saddlers on Saturday - his inspiration was clear.

Hiwula put the chance, the only clear one created by the visitors in the game, wide of the post to cap a brief spell when the Saddlers looked a little more cohesive.

As it was, their brief hope was soon extinguished.

Remarkably, despite a run of one win in six, they remain just six points adrift of the play-off positions yet even the most optimistic of fans



Barnsley's Josh Scowen and Saddlers' Jordy Hiwula fight for the ball during the clash

would admit it is going take a serious improvement for any serious challenge to be made.

There can't be many other fanbases who see the prospect of back-to-back home games and groan, but that is exactly what faces Walsall now before their big day out.

Who knows what course Saturday's game might have taken had Waring not converted the first goal by apparently illegal means. The finish looked odd as Waring stole in at the near post before a host of visiting players ran to referee Stuart Attwell pointing at their arms. The official remained unmoved.

Waring was a constant menace and there was no doubting the legality, or quality, of his second,

when he fired a low finish into the bottom corner. Winnall completed the scoring a minute from time to leave the Saddlers feeling very sorry for themselves.

Barnsley (4-5-1): Davies, Holgate, Nyatanga, Cranie, Smith, O'Sullivan, Pearson (Bailey 56), Hourihane, Scowen, Lalkovic (Winnall 62), Waring (Ibehre 79). Subs not used: Berry, M'Voto, Jennings, Dibble (gk).

Walsall: (4-2-3-1): O'Donnell 6/10, Purkiss 6 (O'Connor 4 HT), Downing 7, Chambers J 6, Taylor 5, Flanagan 6 (Cain 68), Chambers A 5, Baxendale 5 (Grimes 5 HT), Sawyers 5, Hiwula 6, Bradshaw 5. Subs not used: Mantom, Preston, Bakayoko, MacGillivray (gk).

Wing duo may be back for MK Dons

WALSALL boss Dean Smith hopes to welcome back wing duo Anthony Forde and Jordan Cook for Saturday's visit of MK Dons.

Forde has missed the last three games with a groin strain, while Cook has sat out the last two with a similar injury.

Meanwhile Sam Mantom is poised to play a full 90 minutes for the reserves after making a surprise appearance on the bench for Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Barnsley.

The 23-year-old has been limited to just four substitute appearances all season due to persistent knee problems but appears to be making rapid progress after returning to training a week ago.

"It was a boost to have Sam on the bench," said Smith.

Smith is hoping the return of Cook and Forde can breathe new life into the Saddlers after they slumped to a fourth defeat in six at Oakwell.

They remain just six points outside the play-off place despite the poor run but are lacking momentum and Smith felt the conditions and the state of Barnsley's pitch did not help their cause.

"We will rub ourselves down like we always do," he said. "We have two big games at home now and we need to out our home form right against MK Dons and Sheffield United.

"It is disappointing, following the game at Yeovil last Tuesday on a really good pitch where we popped it around and created 20 chances.

"Then you go to Barnsley and have to play on that. Both teams ended up having to play a long ball game, a percentage game.

"They were better at it than us, they defended better than us and ended up with the result."

Cook in the running for goal of the year

WALSALL'S Jordan Cook is in the running for the Football League Goal of the Year Award for 2014.

The 24-year-old's stunning strike in the Saddlers 3-1 win over Barnsley in December made the shortlist of ten goals, after clubs were asked to submit their best strike of the calendar year.

And now supporters will get the chance to vote for it as the overall winner.

Cook is up against goals by Shrewsbury's Andy Mangan and former Saddler Craig Westcarr.

Supporters can watch all the contenders at www1.skysports.com/goaloftheyear. Voting closes at midnight on Tuesday, March 24.

★★★

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